

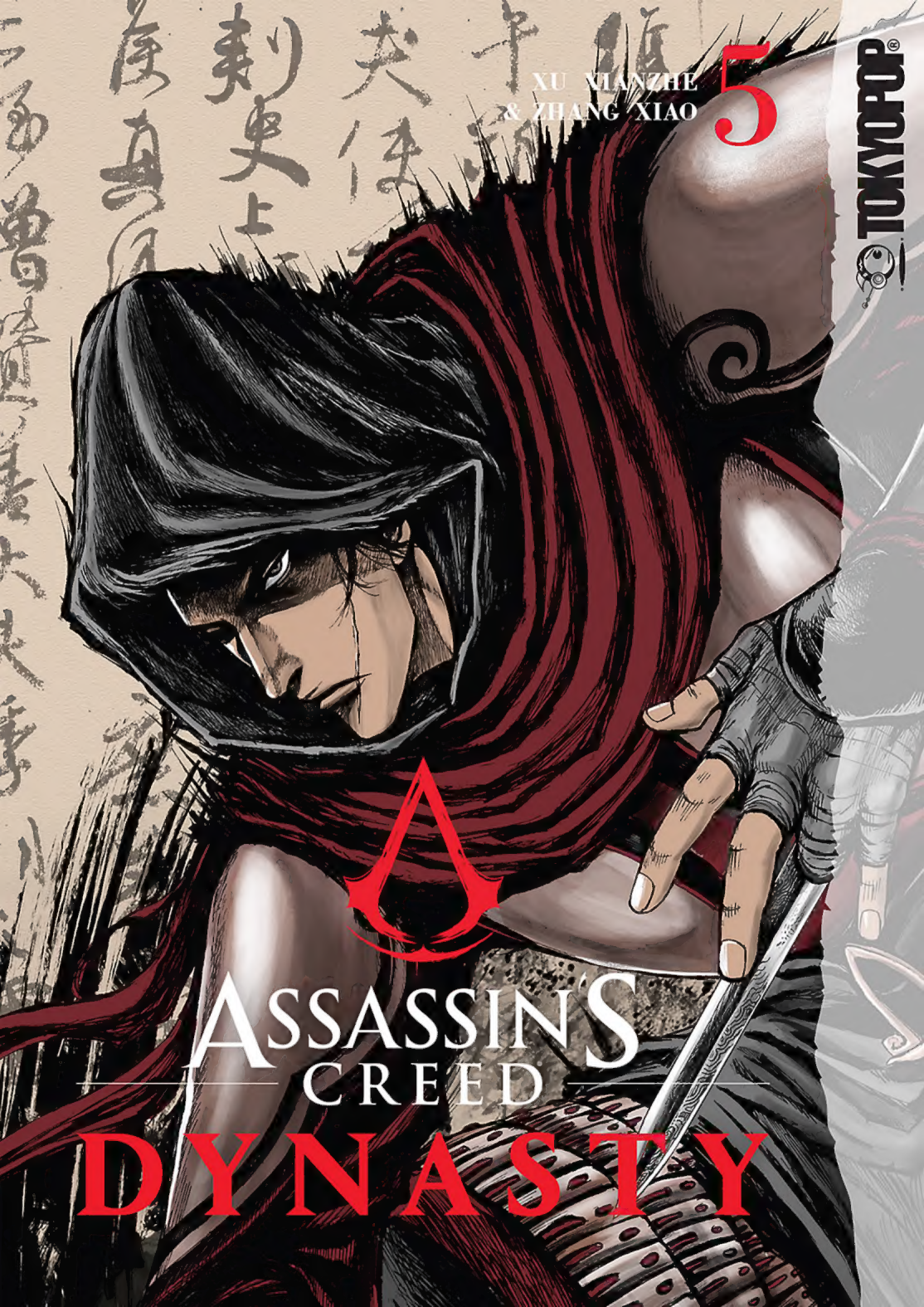
XU XIANZHE
& ZHANG XIAO

5

TOKYOPOP®



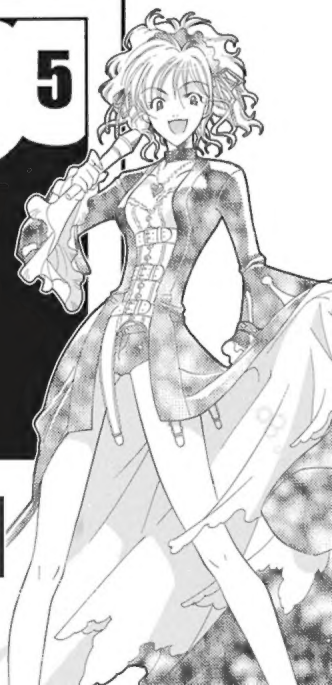
ASSASSIN'S
CREED
DYNASTY



STOP

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

How do you read manga-style? It's simple!
Let's practice -- just start in the top right
panel and follow the numbers below!



READ
RIGHT
TO
LEFT

DEAR READERS,

Thank you for reading!

Have a question, suggestion, title recommendation, or just want to show some love? Visit us on social media, check out our website, or sign up to our newsletter for the latest release info and first dibs on exclusive sales and merchandise.

We appreciate your support, and can't wait to hear from you!

~ TOKYOPOP



@TOKYOPOP

*We'd love to hear from
you on our social media!*

Scan code to visit
tokyopop.com/upcoming



FIN.

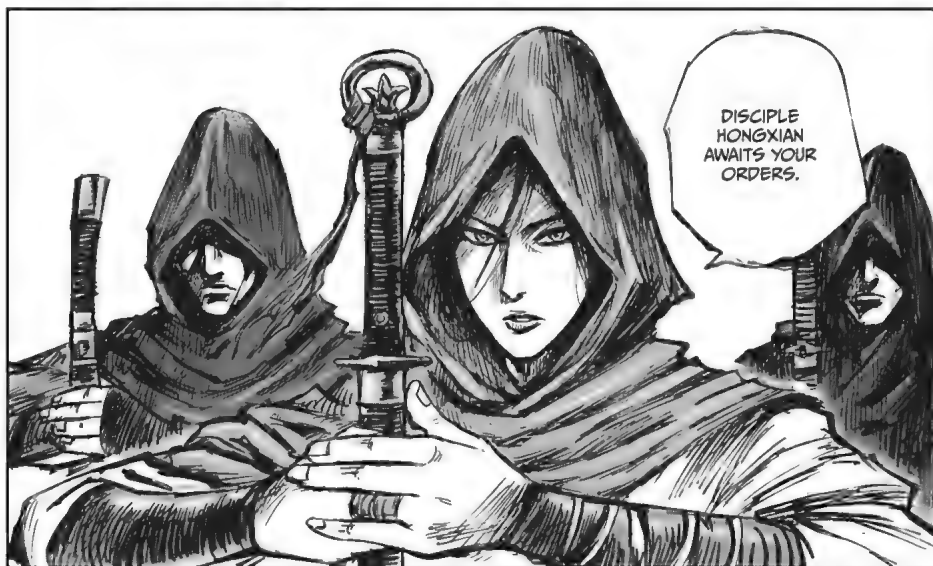




WE
WORK
IN THE
DARK...

TO
SERVE
THE
LIGHT.









歸止爰開土門 土門既開先威
 大慶 城圍通父 陷子死巢
 傾卵覆 天不悔禍誰為
 蒼生念不道 破百萬何堪
 天恩移牧 同東道 閣下
 省樣 書市 念 摧切
 震傳心顏 方後 難
 宅 魂而有 念 難

MODERN INTERPRETATION:

THE FIRST YEAR OF QIANYUAN UNDER EMPEROR TANG SUZONG'S REIGN (758 A.D.), THE WUXU YEAR OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR, THE NINTH MONTH OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR, THE FIRST DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH, GENGWU, AND THE THIRD DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH, RENSHEN.

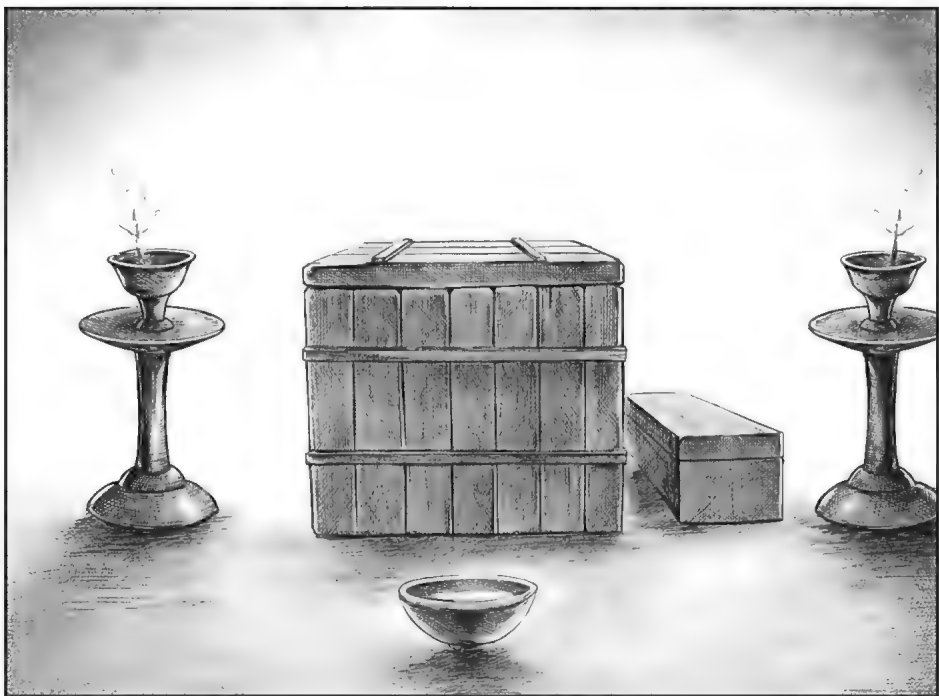
YAN JIMING'S THIRTEENTH UNCLE, THE GRAND MASTER FOR SPLENDID HAPPINESS CARRYING A SILVER SIGNET AND DONNING A GREEN CORDON; MILITARY COMMANDER AND PREFECT OF PUZHOU; CONFERRED THE TITLE OF SENIOR COMMANDANT OF LIGHT CHARIOTS AND FOUNDER OF DANYANG COUNTY, YAN ZHENGING PAYS MY RESPECTS TO THE SOUL OF MY DECEASED NEPHEW, GRAND MASTER ADMONISHER YAN JIMING, WITH WINE AND DELICACIES. YOU WERE BORN AN OUTSTANDING CHILD, FAR MORE UPRIGHT THAN YOUNG MEN OF YOUR AGE. YOU WERE LIKE A PRECIOUS VESSEL IN A SHRINE, YET AKIN TO THE FLOWERS AND TREES IN THE GARDEN. WE WERE GLADDENED BY YOU, WE HOPED YOU WOULD BE BLESSED WITH HAPPINESS AND RISE TO BE A CAPABLE OFFICIAL. YET, THE TRAITORS MOBILIZED THEIR TROOPS AND STAGED AN UNEXPECTED REBELLION. YOUR FATHER DID HIS BEST AS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHAN. AT THAT TIME, I, TOO, WAS SERVING AS THE GOVERNOR OF PINGYUAN UNDER IMPERIAL ORDERS. OUT OF MY COUSIN'S DESIRE TO PROTECT ME, HE SENT YOU AS A MESSENGER TO ME. THE MOMENT YOU RETURNED TO CHANGSHAN, TUMEN WAS RECLAIMED. ONCE TUMEN WAS OPEN, THE MIGHT OF THE TERRIBLE ENEMY WEAKENED. THE TRAITOROUS OFFICIAL WANG CHENGYE HOARDED SOLDIERS AND REFUSED TO SEND HELP AS A RESULT, CHANGSHAN WAS SIEGED. FATHER, SON, AND THE ENTIRE FAMILY WERE SLAIN. IT WAS AS THOUGH A BIRD'S NEST HAD FALLEN FROM A TREE, AND ALL THE EGGS WITHIN SHATTERED WITHOUT A SINGLE SURVIVOR. THE HEAVENS CANNOT REDEEM THEMSELVES FROM THIS TRAGEDY, YET WHO IS TO BE BLAMED FOR IT? NOW THAT YOU HAVE MET SUCH A HORRIBLE END, HOW CAN YOUR DISMEMBERED BODY BE REDEEMED? OH, WHAT GRIEF! I HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THE EMPEROR AND SENT TO SERVE AS AN OFFICIAL IN HEGUAN. QUANKING OF OUR FAMILY HAS RETURNED TO CHANGSHAN. CARRYING A COFFIN BEARING YOUR HEAD, HE HAS RETURNED WITH YOU. MY HEART IS PIERCED BY YEARNING. MY SOUL TREMBLES, AND MY FACE CONTOURTS WITH IMMENSE HEARTBREAK. IN THE FUTURE, A SERENE SPOT WILL BE CHOSEN FOR YOUR GRAVE, AND YOU WILL BE BURIED. IF YOUR SOUL IS LISTENING, PLEASE LET YOUR RESENTMENT REST AND HEAD ON TO A BETTER PLACE. OH, SUCH GRIEF! PLEASE ENJOY THESE OFFERINGS.

惟孔元元年歲上戌戌九月庚
 午朔言士中使以州銀青光祿
 大夫使持節蒲州諸軍事蒲州
 刺史上柱國初封丹楊縣侯國
 侯自唐以清節為著子
 不物贈其善大夫季明之靈
 惟不挺生風標幼德宗廟
 潛應蘭玉內具精華每慰
 人心方期戡穀行圖逆賊聞
 雖直稱兵犯順亦父
 山作郡金時受命之
 原仁兄愛其德得亦濟言不既

THE FIRST YEAR OF QIANYUAN, THE WUXU YEAR OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR. THE NINTH MONTH
 OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR. THE FIRST DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH, GENGWU, AND THE THIRD
 DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH, RENSHEN. (YAN JIMING'S) THIRTEENTH UNCLE, THE (GRAND)
 MASTER FOR SPLENDID HAPPINESS CARRYING A SILVER SIGNET AND DONNING A GREEN
 CORDON; MILITARY COMMANDER AND PREFECT OF PUZHOU; CONFERRED THE TITLE OF
 SENIOR COMMANDANT OF LIGHT CHARIOTS AND FOUNDER OF DANYANG COUNTY; YAN
 ZHENGLING PAYS MY RESPECTS TO THE SOUL OF MY DECEASED NEPHEW, GRAND MASTER
 ADMONISHER YAN JIMING, WITH WINE AND DELICACIES. YOU WERE BORN AN OUTSTANDING
 CHILD, FAR MORE UPRIGHT THAN YOUNG MEN OF YOUR AGE. YOU WERE LIKE A PRECIOUS
 VESSEL IN A SHRINE, YET AKIN TO THE FLOWERS AND TREES IN THE GARDEN. WE WERE
 GLADDENED BY (YOUR VIRTUE). WE HOPED YOU WOULD BE BLESSED WITH HAPPINESS
 AND RISE TO BE A CAPABLE OFFICIAL. YET, THE TRAITORS MOBILIZED THEIR TROOPS
 AND STAGED AN UNEXPECTED REBELLION. YOUR FATHER (□) (FORCED) DID HIS BEST AS
 THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHAN. AT THAT TIME, I, TOO, WAS SERVING AS THE GOVERNOR
 OF PINGYUAN UNDER IMPERIAL ORDERS. OUT OF MY COUSIN'S DESIRE TO PROTECT ME,
 HE SENT YOU (OUT OF FEAR) AS A MESSENGER TO ME. THE MOMENT YOU RETURNED TO
 CHANGSHAN, TUMEN WAS RECLAIMED. ONCE TUMEN WAS OPEN, THE MIGHT OF THE TERRIBLE
 ENEMY WEAKENED. THE TRAITOROUS OFFICIAL HOARDED SOLDIERS AND REFUSED TO SEND
 HELP. AS A RESULT, THE CITY WAS SIEGED. THE FATHER WAS (CAPTURED) AND KILLED, WHILE
 THE SON WAS SLAIN. IT WAS AS THOUGH A BIRD'S NEST HAD FALLEN FROM A TREE, AND ALL
 THE EGGS WITHIN SHATTERED WITHOUT A SINGLE SURVIVOR. HEAVENS! DON'T YOU FEEL
 ANY REMORSE FOR THIS TRAGEDY? WHO SHALL BE BLAMED FOR SUCH A CALAMITY? NOW
 THAT YOU HAVE BEEN DISMEMBERED SO HORRIBLY, EVEN A HUNDRED CORPSES WOULD BE
 INADEQUATE AS RECOMPENSE! OH, WHAT GRIEF! I HAVE BEEN BLESSED BY THE EMPEROR
 AND SENT TO SERVE IN (THE VICINITY OF HEDONG) HEGUAN. QUANMING OF OUR FAMILY
 HAS RETURNED TO CHANGSHAN. (LIFTING) CARRYING A COFFIN BEARING YOUR HEAD, HE HAS
 (LEFT CHANGSHAN) RETURNED TOGETHER. MY HEART IS PIERCED BY YEARNING. MY SOUL
 TREMBLES, AND MY FACE CONTORTS WITH IMMENSE HEARTBREAK. WAIT FOR (□) DISTANT
 DAY, (□□) SERENE SPOT FOR YOUR GRAVE IS FOUND (FOR YOU TO REST). IF YOUR SOUL
 IS LISTENING, PLEASE DO NOT STAY CHAINED TO THIS PLACE BY YOUR HATRED. OH, SUCH
 GRIEF PLEASE ENJOY THESE DELICACIES.

YAN ZHENGLING'S DRAFT
 OF A REQUIEM TO MY
 NEPHEW (THE SECOND
 BEST WALKING SCRIPT
 IN THE WORLD, 'FUNERAL
 ADDRESS FOR MY
 NEPHEW')



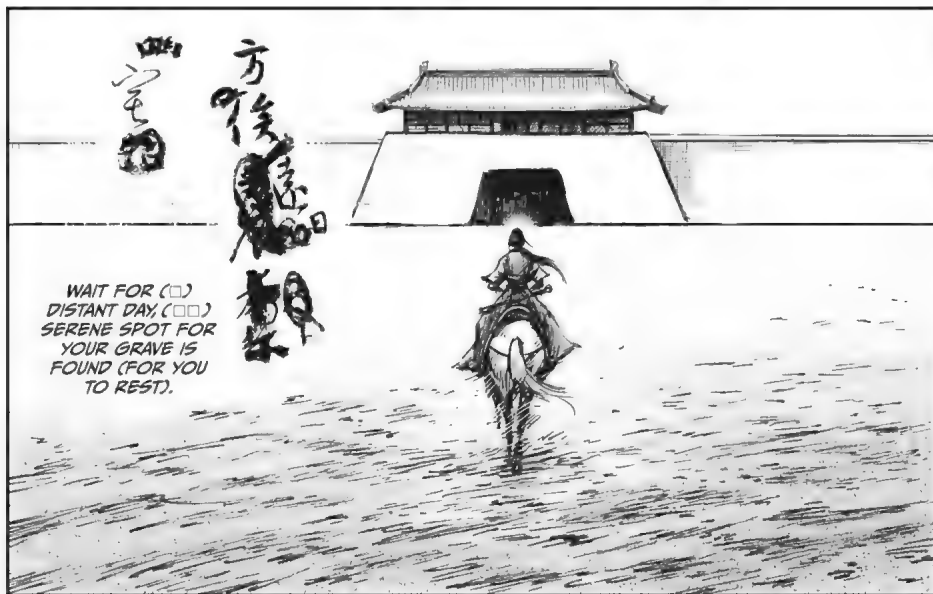






震傳心顔

MY SOUL
TREMBLES,
AND MY FACE
CONTORTS
WITH IMMENSE
HEARTBREAK.



WAIT FOR (□)
DISTANT DAY, (□□)
SERENE SPOT FOR
YOUR GRAVE IS
FOUND (FOR YOU
TO REST).

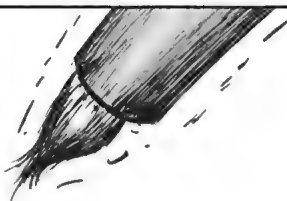
方後遠日
静

心も
静

天景移牧河東
首標



齊東野語
乃益曰還



接食擢切





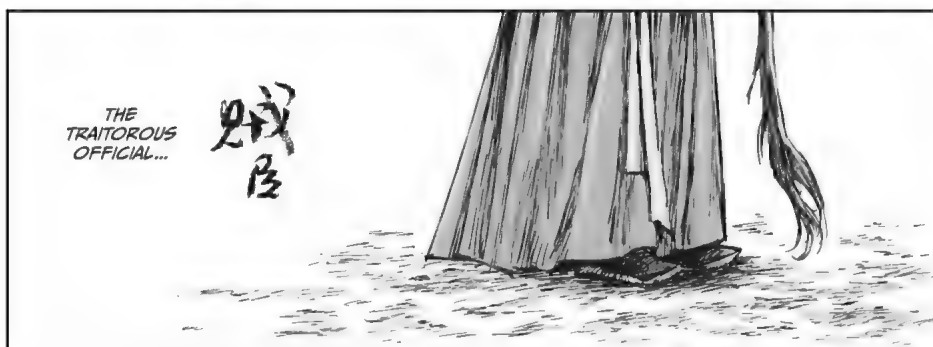




(THE
TRAITOROUS
OFFICIAL
HOARDED
SOLDIERS AND
REFUSED TO
SEND HELP)



THE
TRAITOROUS
OFFICIAL
HOARDED
SOLDIERS AND
REFUSED TO
SEND HELP.



THE
TRAITOROUS
OFFICIAL...

賊臣



THE
TRAITOROUS
OFFICIAL
HOARDED
SOLDIERS AND
REFUSED TO
SEND HELP...

賊臣不救

AT THAT TIME, I, TOO, WAS
SERVING AS THE GOVERNOR
OF PINGYUAN UNDER IMPERIAL
ORDERS. OUT OF MY COUSIN'S
DESIRE TO PROTECT ME, HE
SENT YOU (OUT OF FEAR)
AS A MESSENGER TO ME.

原

兄愛我
得
得
言
不
以

今時
愛
今
之
後
平

歸止
爰
開
土
門
土
門
既
開
先
威
大
威

THE MOMENT
YOU RETURNED
TO CHANGSHAN,
TUMEN WAS
RECLAIMED.
ONCE TUMEN
WAS OPEN, THE
MIGHT OF THE
TERRIBLE ENEMY
WEAKENED.





方期戡穀行圖逆賊聞
順直稱兵犯順

WE HOPED YOU
WOULD BE BLESSED
WITH HAPPINESS
AND RISE TO BE A
CAPABLE OFFICIAL.
YET, THE TRAITORS
MOBILIZED THEIR
TROOPS AND STAGED
AN UNEXPECTED
REBELLION.

ARE UNREADABLE CHARACTERS.



YOUR FATHER
(□) (FORCED)
DID HIS BEST AS
THE GOVERNOR
OF CHANGSHAN.

山作郡
尔父
常

PAYS MY
RESPECTS TO
THE SOUL OF
MY DECEASED
NEPHEW,
GRAND
MASTER
ADMONISHER
YAN JIMING,
WITH WINE AND
DELICACIES.

心清酌庶羞
贈好善大夫季明之靈

(PATERNAL) THIRTEENTH
UNCLE, THE (GRAND)
MASTER FOR SPLENDID
HAPPINESS CARRYING
A SILVER SIGNET AND
DONNING A GREEN
CORDON; MILITARY
COMMANDER AND PREFECT
OF PUZHOU; CONFERRED
THE TITLE OF SENIOR
COMMANDANT OF LIGHT
CHARIOTS AND FOUNDER
OF DANYANG COUNTY, YAN
ZHENGING...

第十三叔父
銀青光祿
大夫持節蒲州法軍兼蒲州
刺史上柱國封丹陽縣公
臣具奏



YOU WERE LIKE
A PRECIOUS
VESSEL IN A
SHRINE, YET AKIN
TO THE FLOWERS
AND TREES IN
THE GARDEN.
WE WERE
GLADDENED BY
(YOUR VIRTUE).

人心

明是積善每慰

階庭蘭玉

宗廟瑚璉

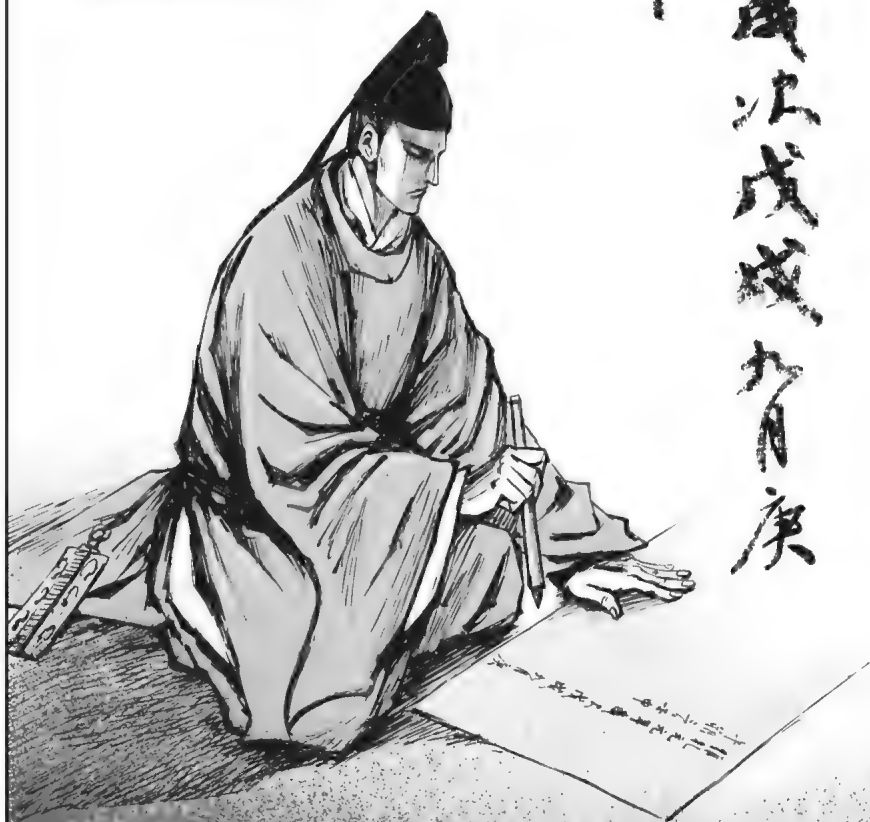


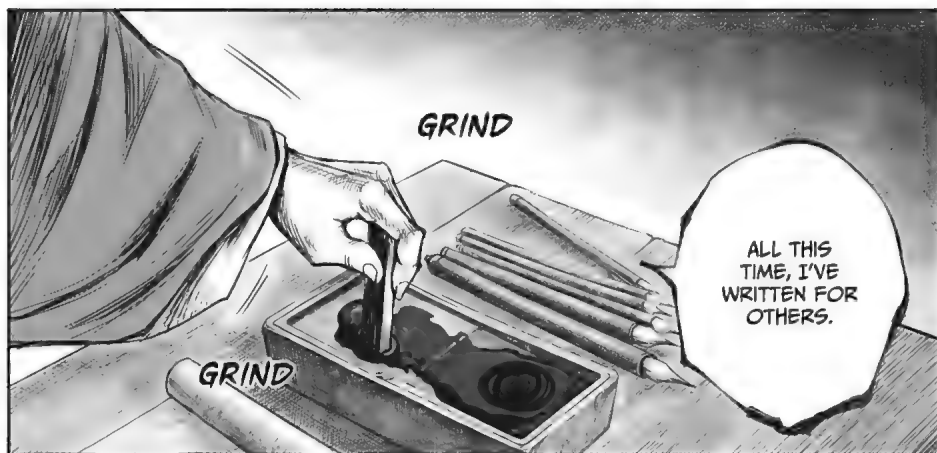
惟尔挺生風標幼德

YOU WERE
BORN AN
OUTSTANDING
CHILD, FAR
MORE UPRIGHT
THAN YOUNG
MEN OF YOUR
AGE.

THE FIRST YEAR OF QIANYUAN,
THE WUXU YEAR OF THE LUNAR
CALENDAR. THE NINTH MONTH
OF THE LUNAR CALENDAR. THE
FIRST DAY OF THE LUNAR MONTH,
GENGWU, AND THE THIRD DAY OF
THE LUNAR MONTH, RENSHEN.

維
光
元
元
年
歲
次
戊
戌
九
月
庚
子
朔
三
日
壬
申







SO, YOU OFTEN
LEARNED FROM
ME IN A BID TO
IMPROVE YOUR
CALLIGRAPHY.

I REFUSED
TO LISTEN
AND WAS
OBSESSED WITH
CALLIGRAPHY
SINCE CHILDHOOD
TO PURSUE THE
PERFECT
STYLE.

FOR
EXAMPLE, OUR
FAMILY TEACHINGS
STATE, "PAY ONLY A
LITTLE ATTENTION
TO YOUR
CALLIGRAPHY."
AN EDUCATED
MAN SHOULD NOT
HAVE SLOPPY
HANDWRITING.
HOWEVER, IT DOES
NOT NEED TO BE
TOO SOPHISTICATED,
OR IT'LL BECOME A
LIFETIME OF HARD
WORK.



MANY WOULD
COME TO
COMMISSION
CALLIGRAPHY
PIECES, AND IT
WAS HARD TO
REFUSE SUCH
REQUESTS FROM
ACQUAINTANCES...
SO, I HAD TO
WRITE THEM.

HENCE, MY
CALLIGRAPHY
WAS DECENT
AND I BECAME
KNOWN
FOR IT.



THIS REALLY
BECAME A
LIFETIME OF
LABOR.

THE
TEACHINGS
OF OUR
ANCESTORS
ARE INDEED
TRUE.



HOW CAN
I PROVE
MY FAMILY'S
HONOR?

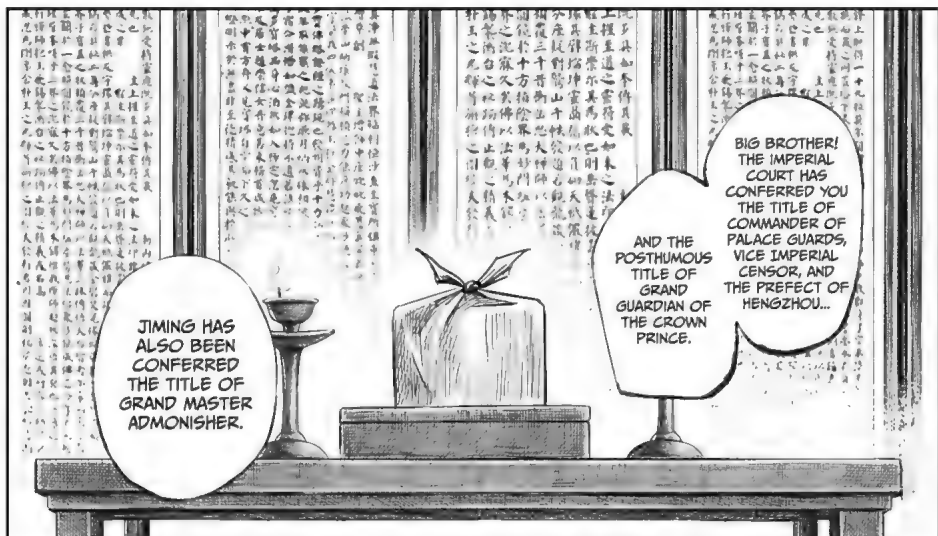


JIMING, I'M
NOT LIKE YOUR
FATHER. I WAS
REBELLIOUS
FROM MY YOUTH
AND IGNORED
THE FAMILY
TEACHINGS.



THEY
MISTAKENLY
ASSUME
YOU WERE
EQUALLY
FOOLISH.
YET, THEY'RE
UNAWARE
THAT
YOU'VE
STAYED
TRUE TO
YOUR
HEARTS.

THE WORLD
ALWAYS
BLINDLY
TRUSTS IN
POWER AND
GLORY.



JIMING HAS
ALSO BEEN
CONFERRED
THE TITLE OF
GRAND MASTER
ADMONISHER.

AND THE
POSTHUMOUS
TITLE OF
GRAND
GUARDIAN OF
THE CROWN
PRINCE.

BIG BROTHER!
THE IMPERIAL
COURT HAS
CONFERRED YOU
THE TITLE OF
COMMANDER OF
PALACE GUARDS,
VICE IMPERIAL
CENSOR, AND
THE PREFECT OF
HENGZHOU...



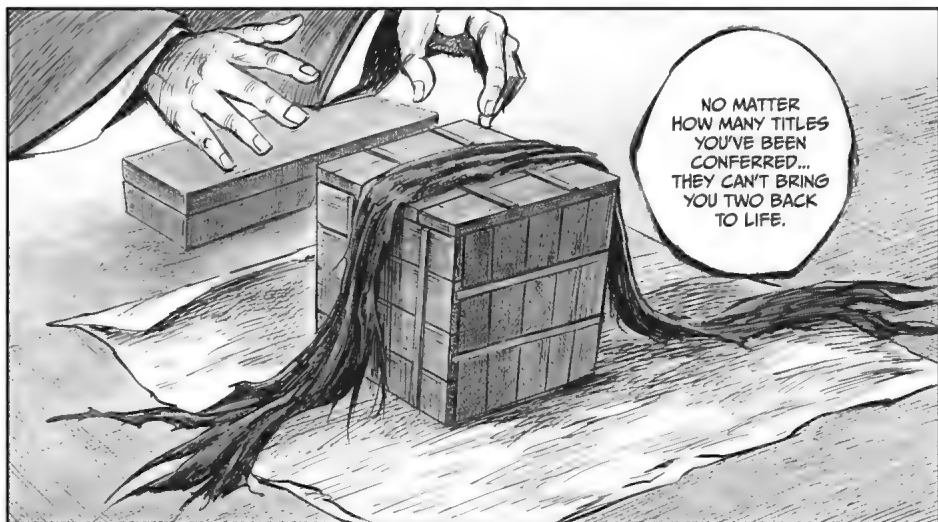
BUT
WHAT'S THE
POINT?



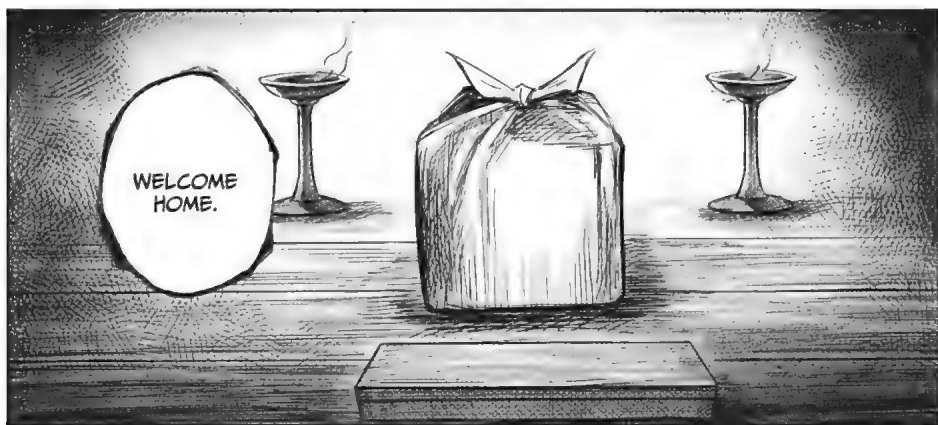
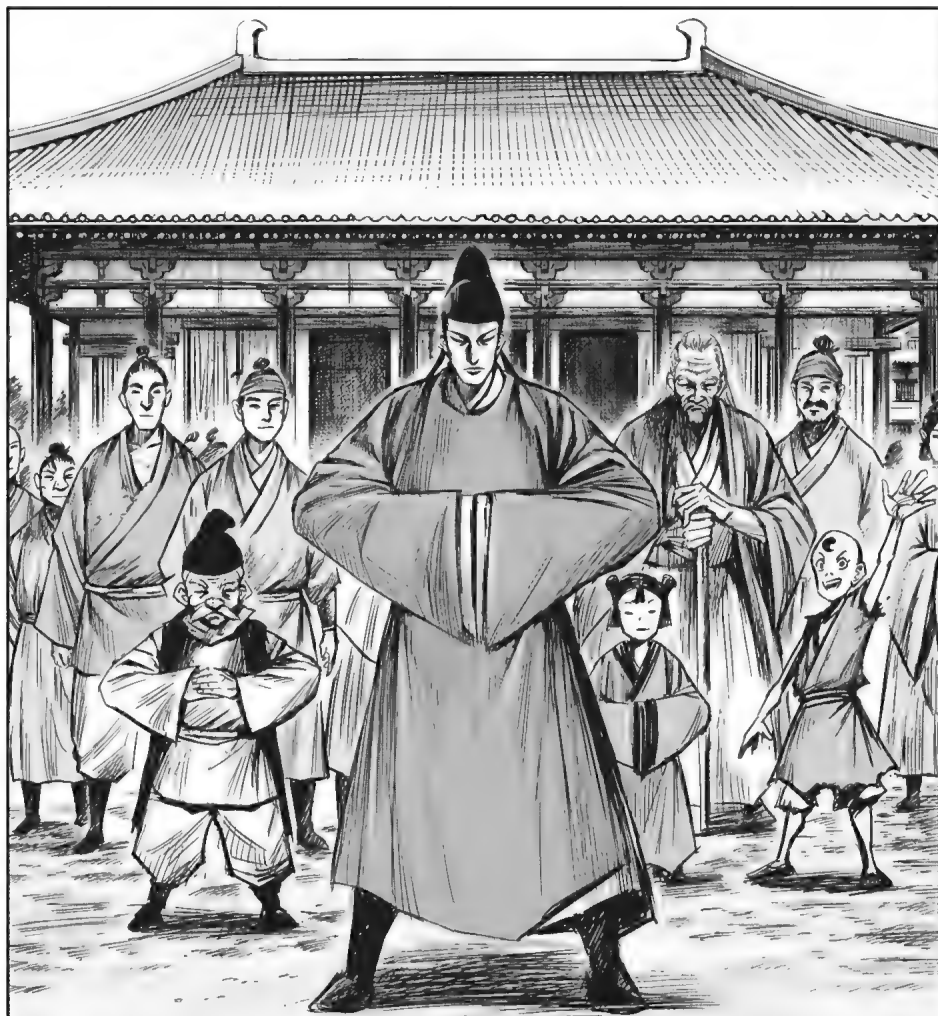
...



AFTER
SO MUCH
HUBBUB,
THESE ARE
PRETTY
IMPRESSIVE
TITLES,
AREN'T
THEY?



NO MATTER
HOW MANY TITLES
YOU'VE BEEN
CONFERRED...
THEY CAN'T BRING
YOU TWO BACK
TO LIFE.







AFTER
QUANMING
WAS
RESCUED, HE
FRANTICALLY
RAISED
FUNDS TO
REDEEM
EVERYONE'S
FREEDOM.



WITH HIM
WERE
MEMBERS
OF THE
WOMEN
OF THE
YAN FAMILY
FROM THE
VARIOUS
LANDS AND
ORPHANS OF
CHANGSHAN.



IT
CONTAINED
THE REMAINS
OF THIS
FATHER
AND HIS
BROTHER.

WAS A
WOODEN
BOX
GIVEN
TO HIM
BY LI E—

IN HIS
ARMS



RATHER,
SHE
SILENTLY
REPEATED
IN HER
HEART...

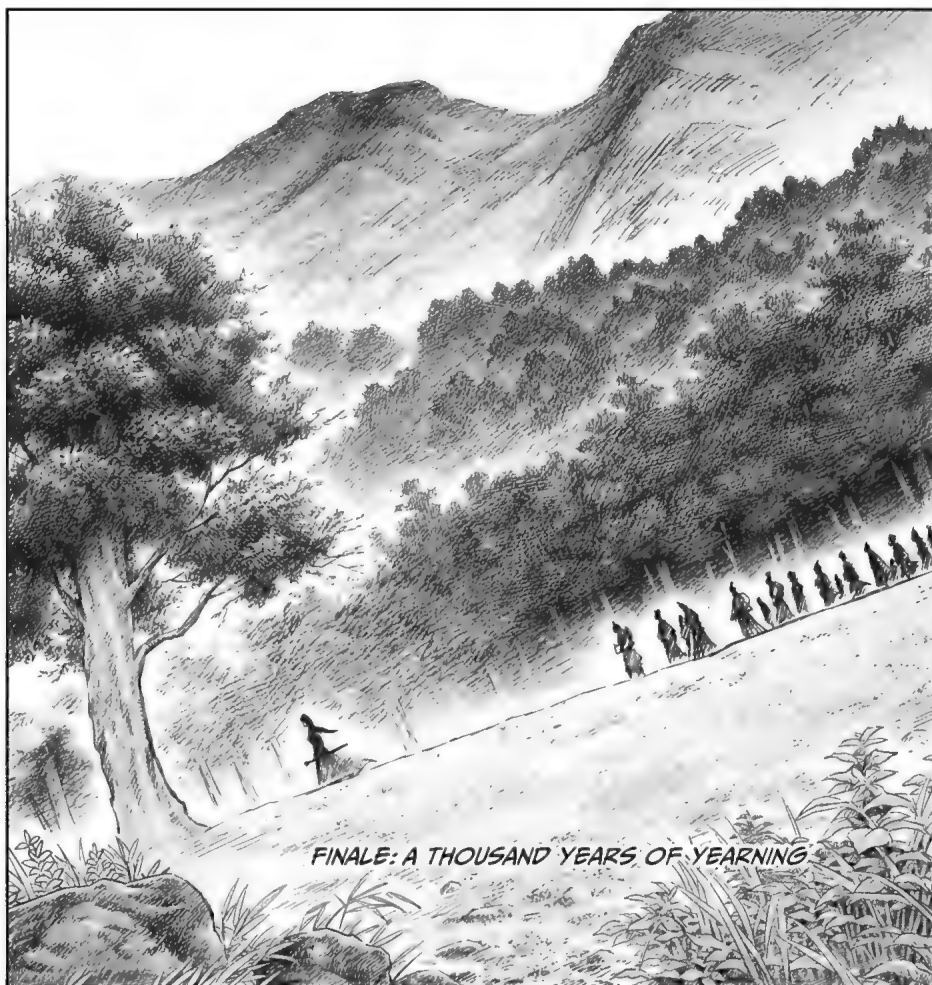


HE
HONG'ER
DARED
NOT
SPARE IT
ANOTHER
GLANCE.

THIS BOX
SEEMED
TOO
SMALL
FOR HER
HUSBAND.







A YEAR LATER—



THE SPARROWS FLY INTO THE
SKY, AND IN THE SKY, GIRLS LAY
WHITE FELT TO DRY. ON THE FELT,
GOLD PILES HIGH.

THIS NURSERY RHYME WAS CIRCULATED AMONG THE COMMON FOLK BEFORE THE AN LUSHAN REBELLION, THE PEOPLE VIEWED IT AS A PROPHECY FORETELLING THE FATE OF AN LUSHAN.

SPARROWS ALLUDE TO AN LUSHAN'S KINGDOM OF "YAN" (SPARROW). IN THE LINE ON GIRLS IN THE SKY, THE CHARACTER 女 (GIRL), UNDER THE UPPER RADICAL 𠂇 FORMS 安 (AND) IN AN LUSHAN. WHITE FELT IS A REFERENCE TO SNOW, AND THE TERM FOR GOLD, 千金 (A THOUSAND GOLDEN PIECES), ALLUDES TO A THOUSAND DAYS IN THE WORLD.

*AN LUSHAN STAGED HIS
REBELLION ON THE
ELEVENTH MONTH OF
YIMO, THE FOURTEENTH
YEAR OF TIANBAO.*

(ELEVENTH MONTH, 755 A.D.)

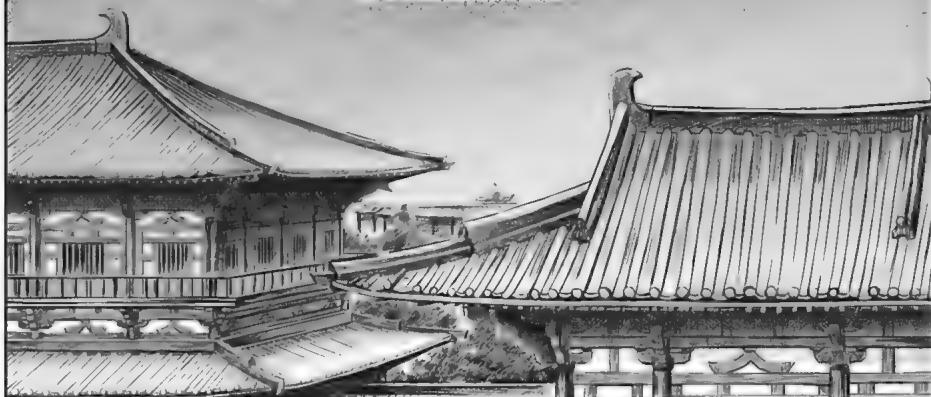
*ON THE FIRST MONTH
OF DINGYOU, THE SECOND
YEAR OF ZHIDE, HE WAS KILLED.*

*(FIRST MONTH OF THE LUNAR
CALENDAR, 757 A.D.)*

*THREE YEARS AFTER
USURPING THE THRONE,
HE DIED AT FIFTY-FIVE
YEARS OLD.*



ON THE NINTH MONTH
OF THE SAME YEAR, TANG
GENERAL GUO ZIYI LED HIS ARMY
TO RECLAIM CHANG'AN.



ON THE TENTH MONTH OF THE
SAME YEAR, THE TANG SOLDIERS
RECOVERED LUOYANG.



AN QINGXU FLED
TO HEBEI, WITH A
MERE THOUSAND
FOLLOWERS.

YAN ZHUANG
SURRENDERED TO
THE TANG DYNASTY
AND WAS APPOINTED
AS MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE.











NO ONE
DARED
TO MOVE.

AN LUSHAN'S
MOST
TRUSTED
SERVANT, LI
ZHUER, WAS
GRIPPING
A SWORD
FIRMLY AS
HE CHARGED
INTO THE
CHAMBERS.



MAKING IT
IMPOSSIBLE
TO ATTACK
HIM.

DUE TO
LUSHAN'S
BLIND-
NESS...
HE ALWAYS
KEPT HIS
TREASURED
SWORD
BY HIS
BEDSIDE...



"A
TRAITOR
IS
AMONG
US!"

BEFORE
HE DIED,
HE NEVER
STOPPED
RATTLING HIS
BED POST
WITH HIS
HAND AND
HOWLING...



AT THIS
MOMENT,
HE BLED
PROFUSELY
FROM HIS
WOUNDED
TORSO.



AN
LUSHAN
LOST HIS
LIFE.

757 A.D.,
THE FIRST
MONTH
OF THE
YEAR...



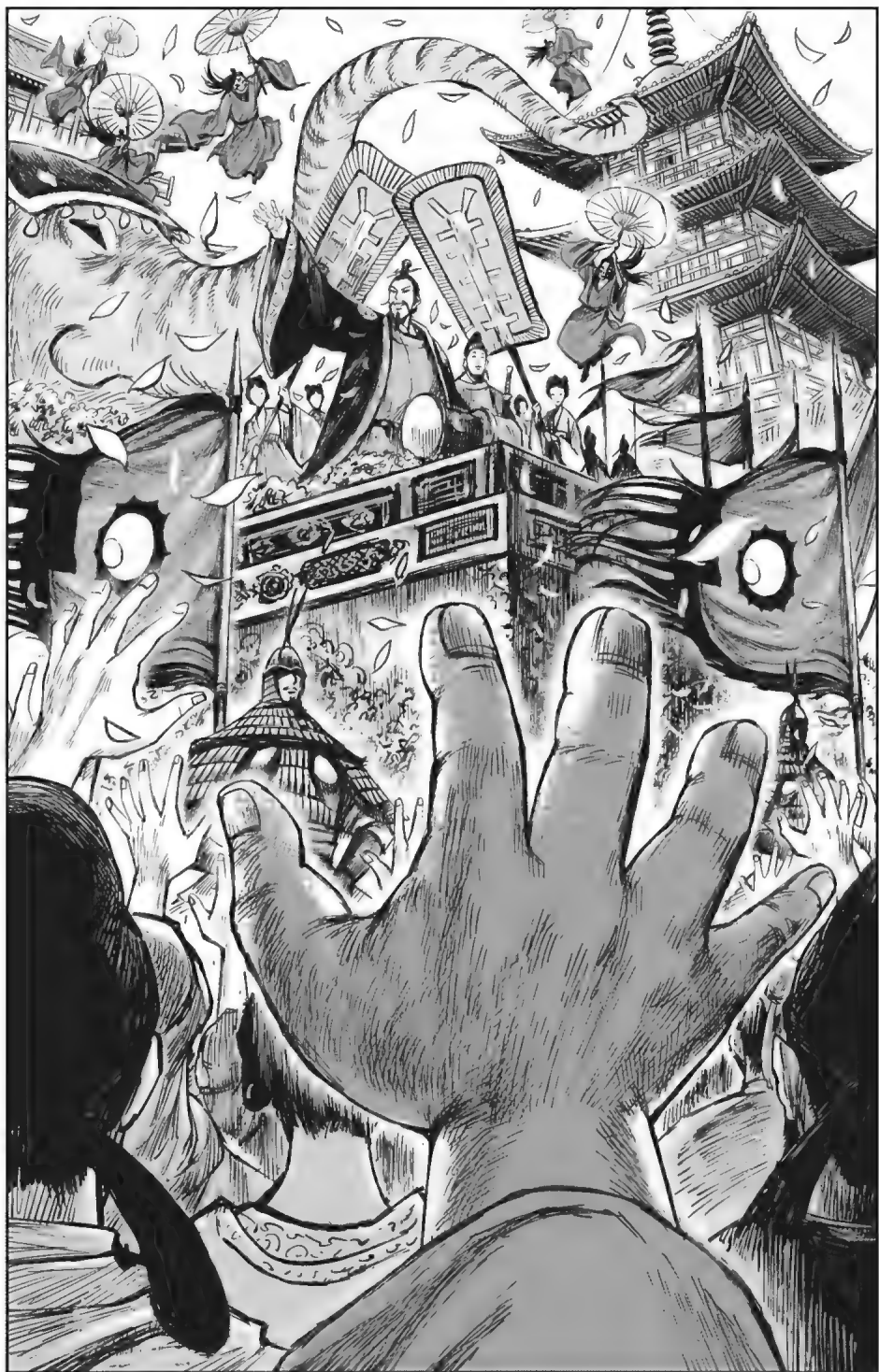
YAN
ZHUANG
AND AN
QINGXU
WERE
STANDING
OUTSIDE
THE
CHAMBERS
WITH THEIR
TROOPS.

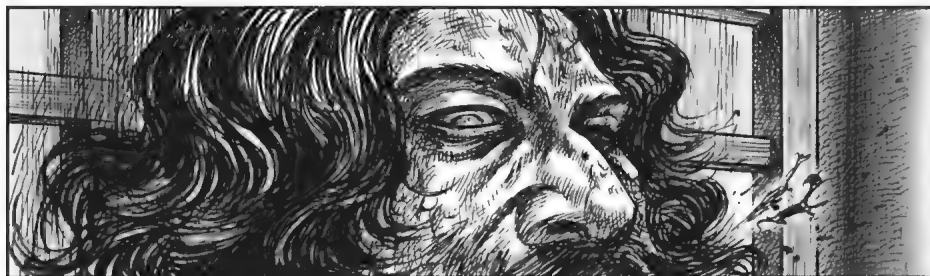
IN
HISTORICAL
RECORDS...



















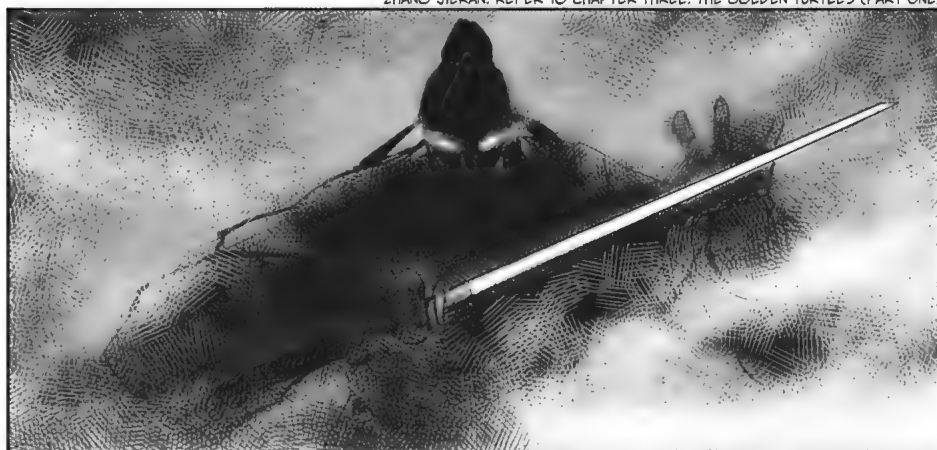








* ZHANG JIERAN: REFER TO CHAPTER THREE: THE GOLDEN TURTLES (PART ONE)





EVERYONE...
WANTS MY
POWER...
COUGH!

HEH...
SEEMS
LIKE...
YOU'RE IN
CAHOOTS...
COUGH!



HUFF

HUFF
HUFF



OR MY
USELESS
SON?

...LI
ZHU'ER?

...YAN
ZHUANG?

WHO
SENT
YOU?



GAO
LISHI?



THE TANG
DYNASTY'S
CROWN
PRINCE...?

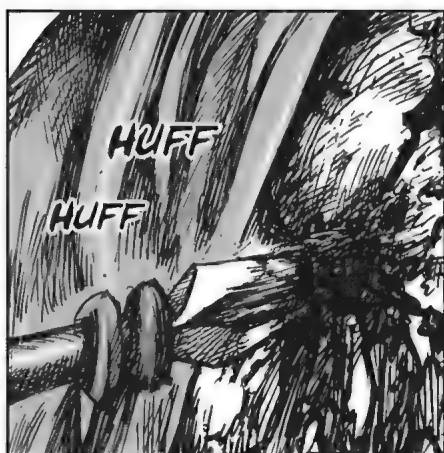
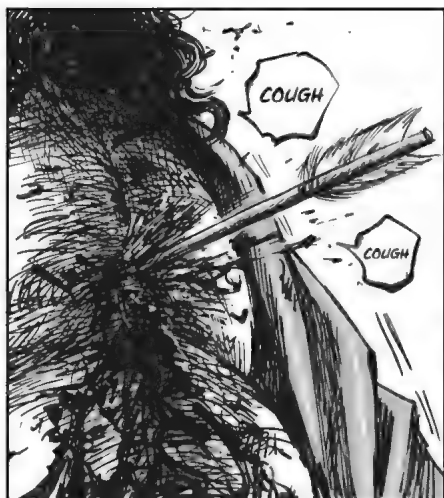


N-NO...



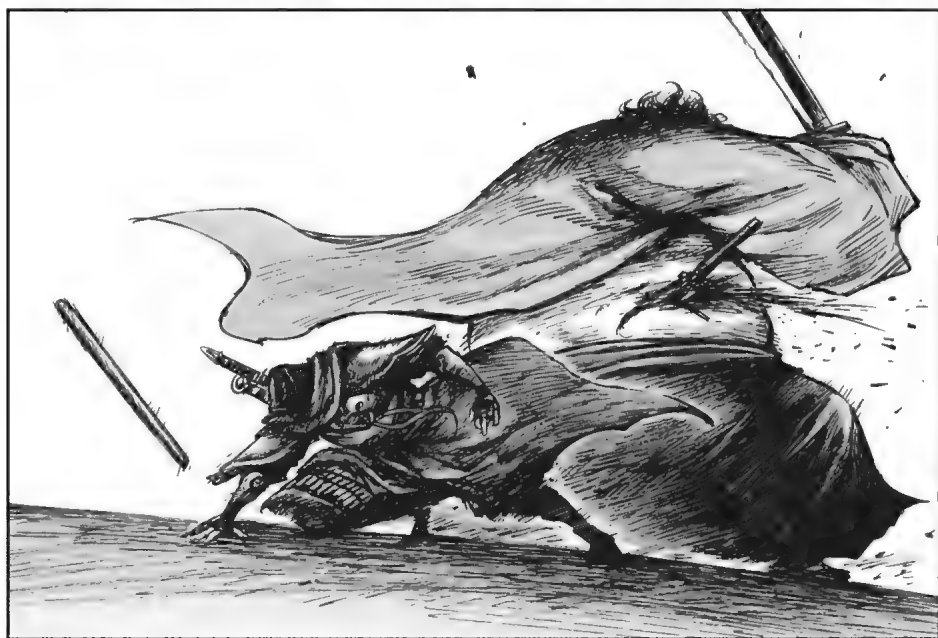










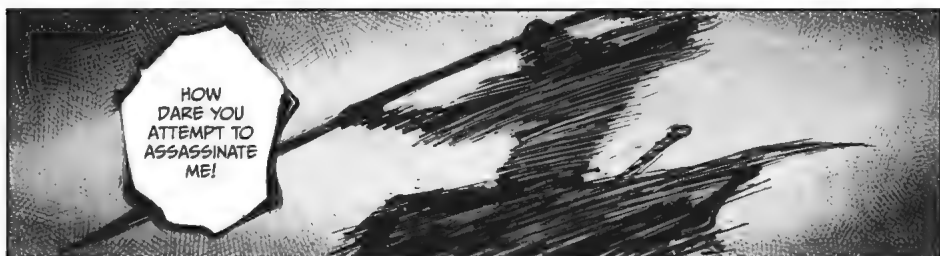




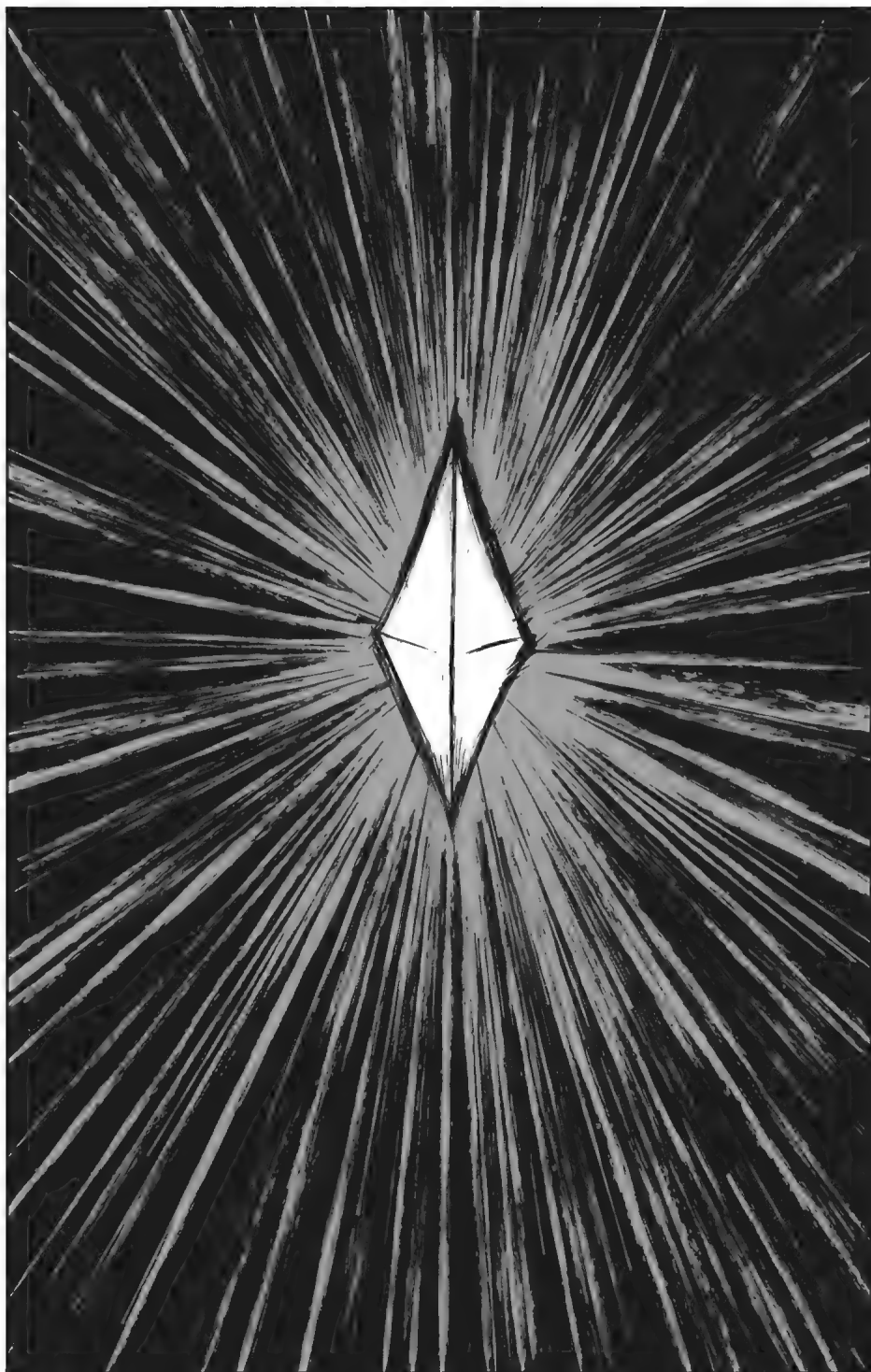








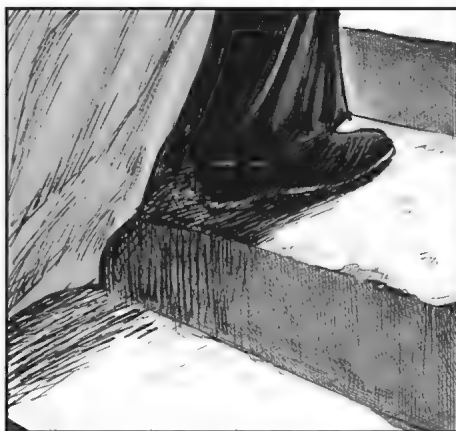




































PEAR GARDEN: A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT INSTITUTION IN THE TANG DYNASTY ESTABLISHED BY TANG XUANZONG.





WEEDS
HAVE
OVERRUN
CHANG'AN.

THE COUNTRY
IS IN RUINS BUT
THE MOUNTAINS
AND RIVERS
REMAIN.

* GAZING AT SPRING-DU FU



WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

AN UPRIGHT
FELLOW.





*FIVE POEMS ON MY WAY OF EXILE—LI BAI



THE ROLLING WAVES
OF THE XIANG RIVER
STRETCH INTO THE
HORIZON, GREEN REEDS
GROW STEADFASTLY.



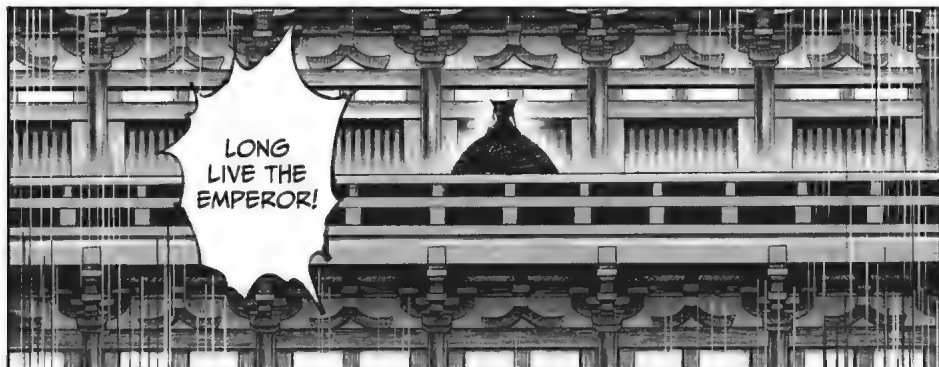
WHERE CAN MY
YEARNING FOR
HOME REST?



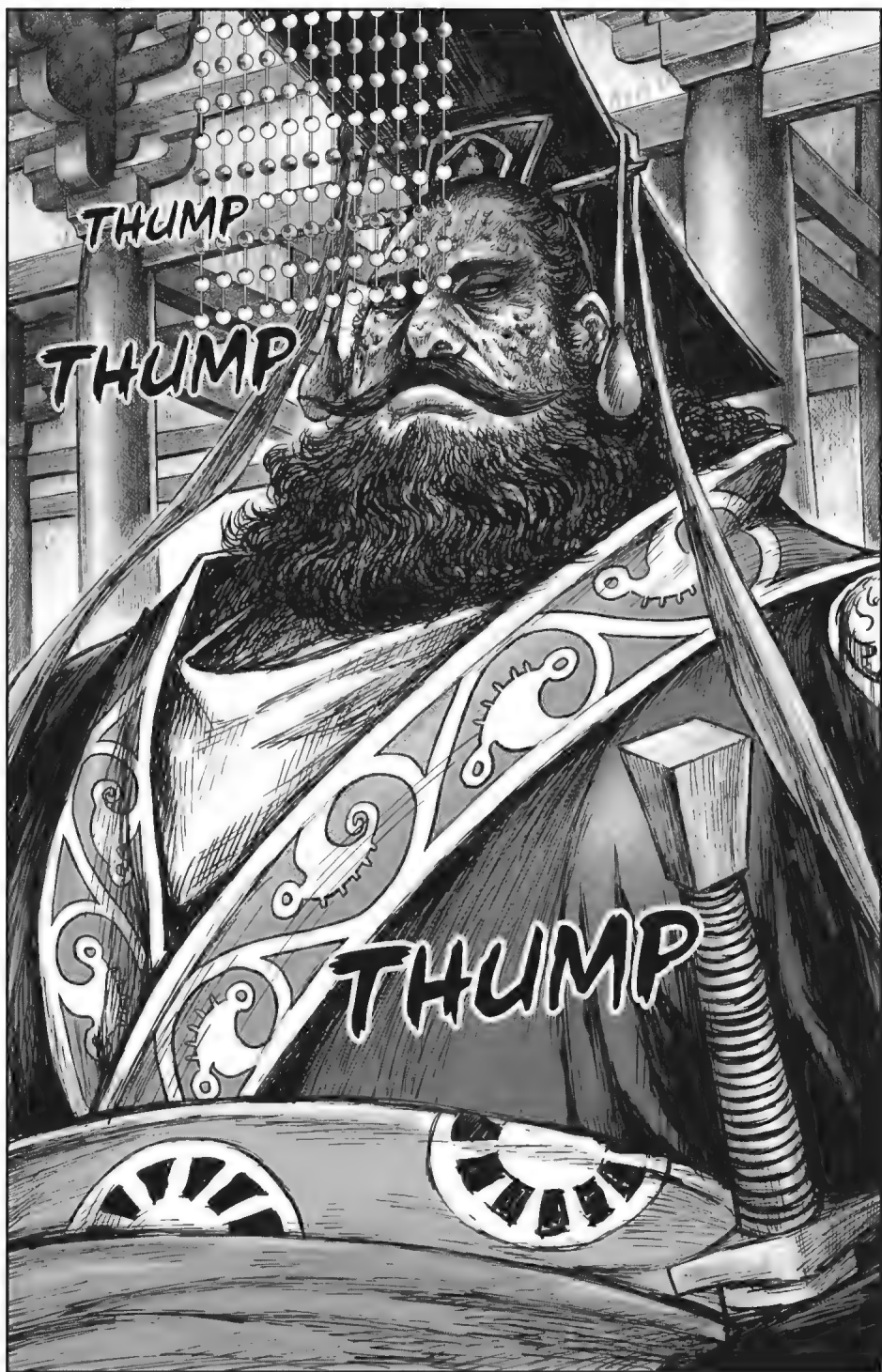
WEST OF THIS
GREAT RIVER, WHERE
THE SUN SETS.

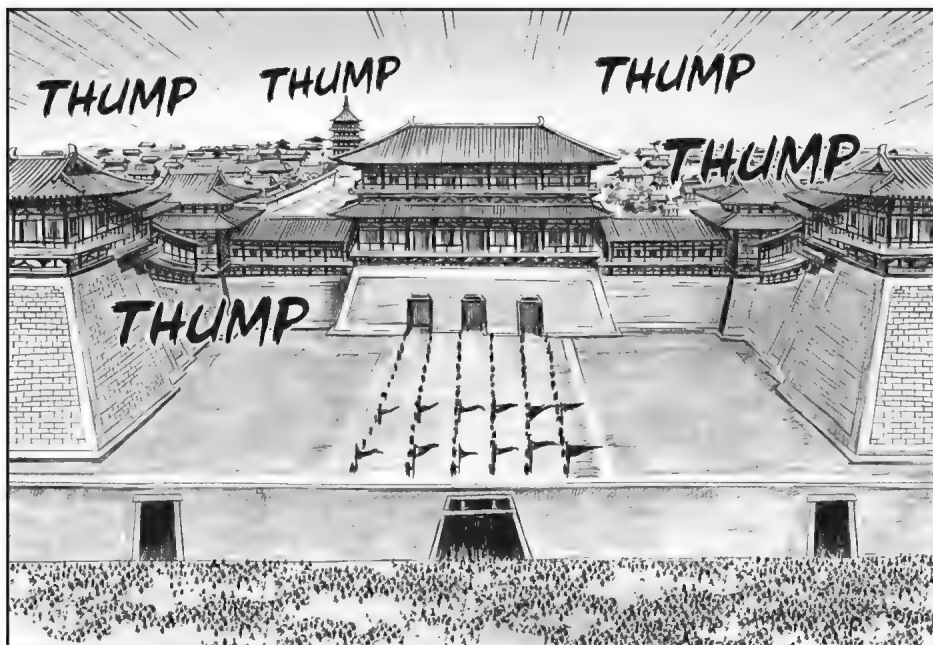
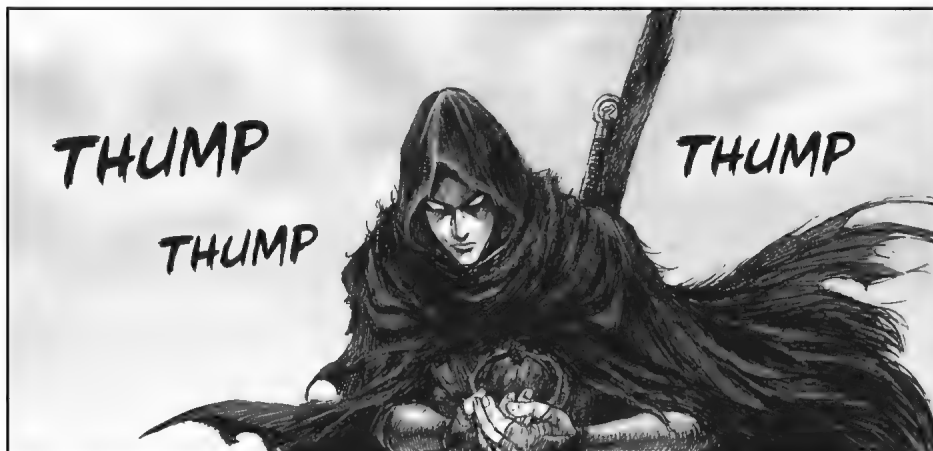








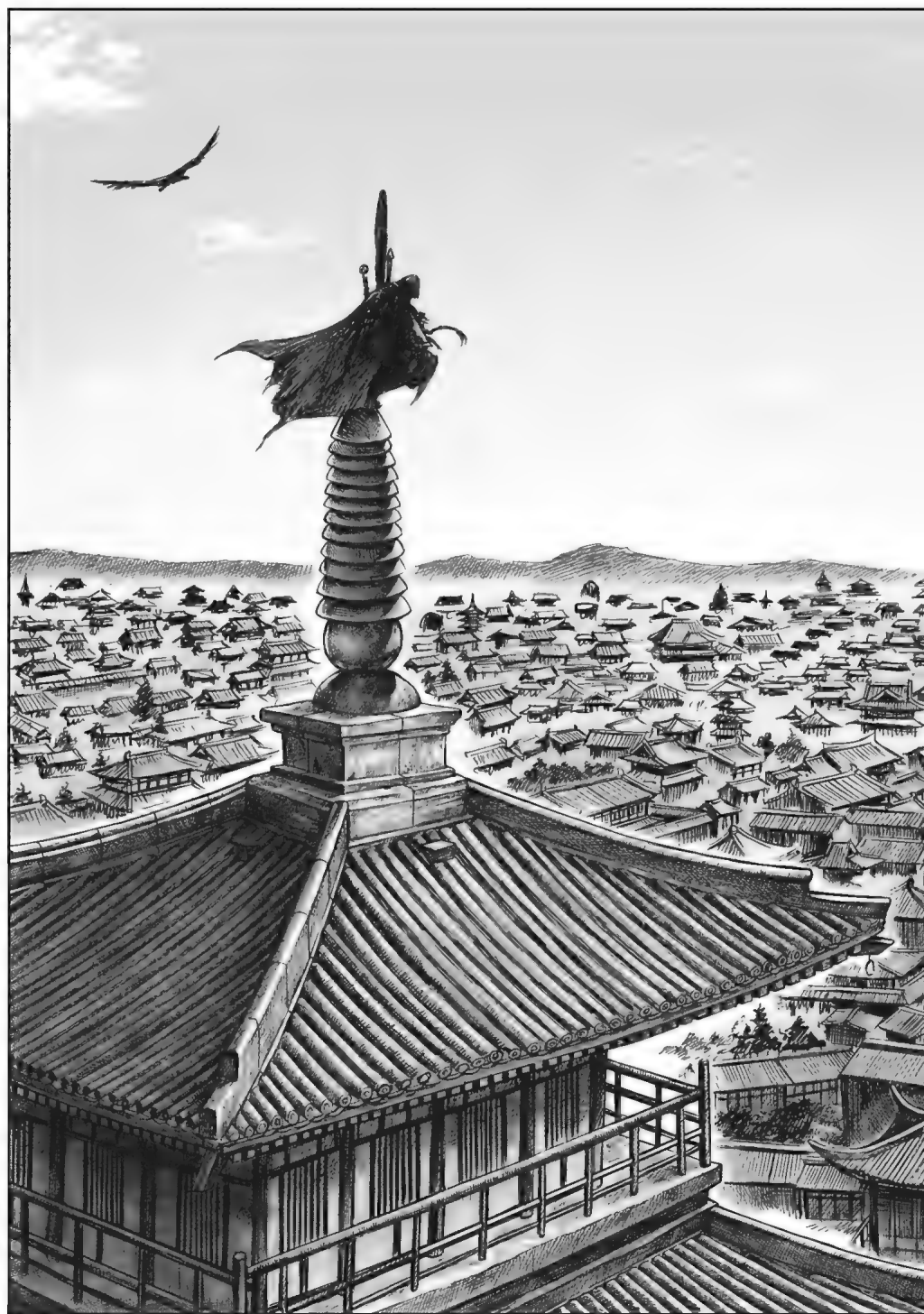




THE FIRST DAY
OF THE FIRST
MONTH WAS
AN LUSHAN'S
BIRTHDAY.

AT THIS TIME,
SHI SIMING PACIFIED
THE REGIONS NORTH
OF THE YELLOW
RIVER. THE YAN
ARMY DEFEATED
THE VANGUARD
TANG SOLDIERS AT
XIANYANG, KILLING
OVER 40,000.

TO CELEBRATE
THIS VICTORY AND
USHER IN THE NEW
YEAR, AN LUSHAN
OPENED THE PALACE
GATES AND ALLOWED
CIVILIANS TO ENTER
THE IMPERIAL
COURT TO PAY
THEIR RESPECTS.



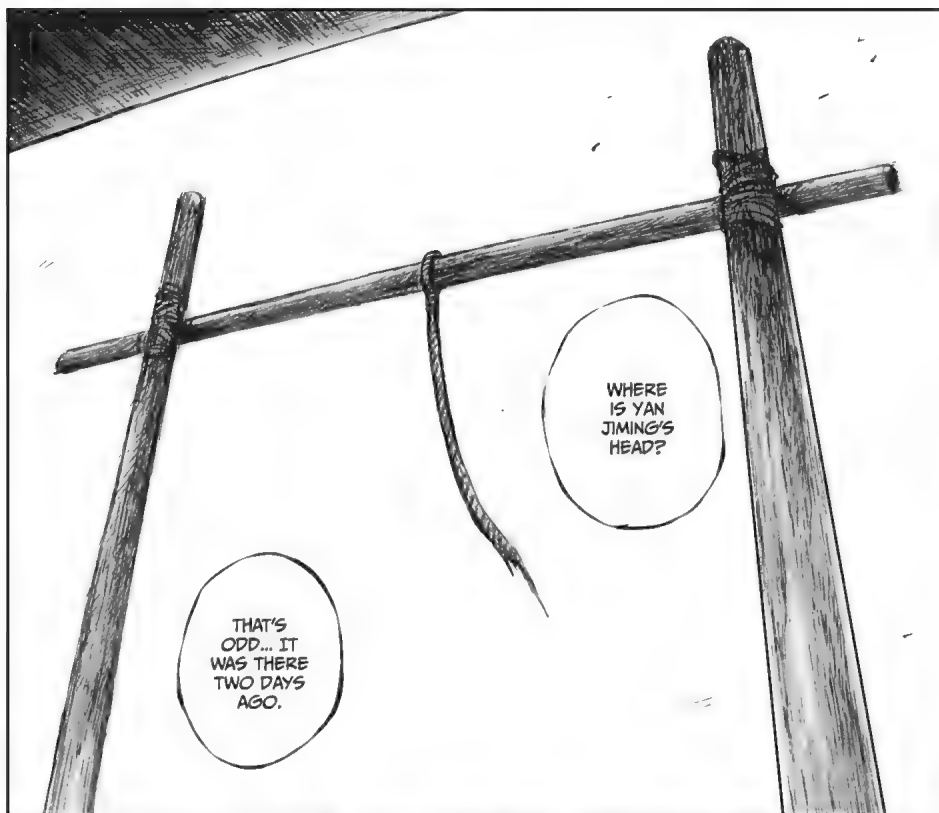
757 A.D. THE
FIRST DAY OF
THE FIRST MONTH
LUOYANG

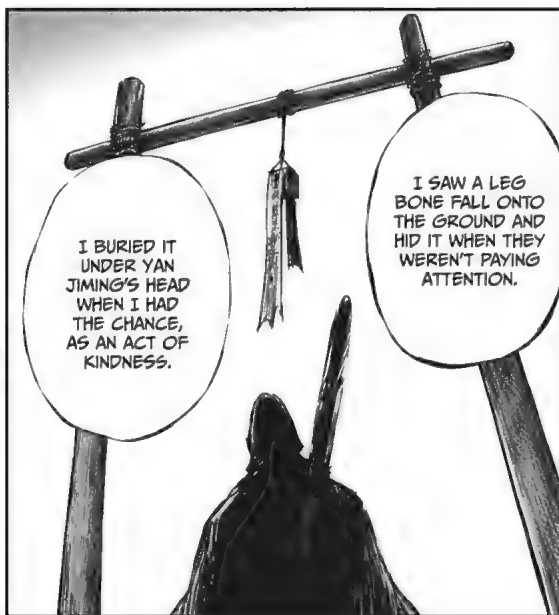




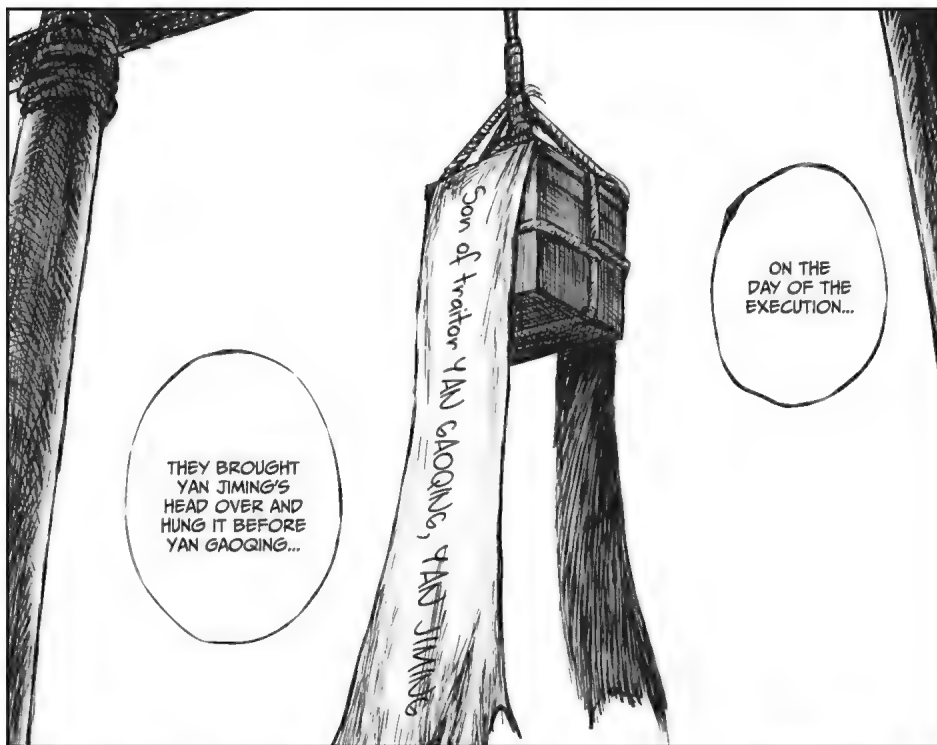






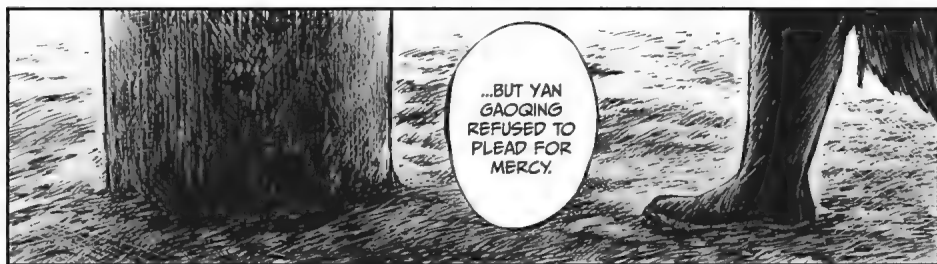






THEY BROUGHT
YAN JIMING'S
HEAD OVER AND
HUNG IT BEFORE
YAN GAOQING...

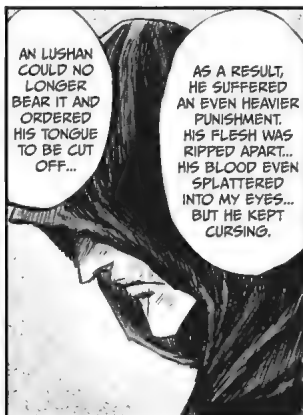
ON THE
DAY OF THE
EXECUTION...



...BUT YAN
GAOQING
REFUSED TO
PLEAD FOR
MERCY.



UNTIL HIS
FINAL BREATH,
YAN GAOQING
WAS STILL
MUMBLING
INCOHERENT
CURSES...



AN LUSHAN
COULD NO
LONGER
BEAR IT AND
ORDERED
HIS TONGUE
TO BE CUT
OFF...

AS A RESULT,
HE SUFFERED
AN EVEN HEAVIER
PUNISHMENT.
HIS FLESH WAS
RIPPED APART...
HIS BLOOD EVEN
SPLATTERED
INTO MY EYES...
BUT HE KEPT
CURSING.



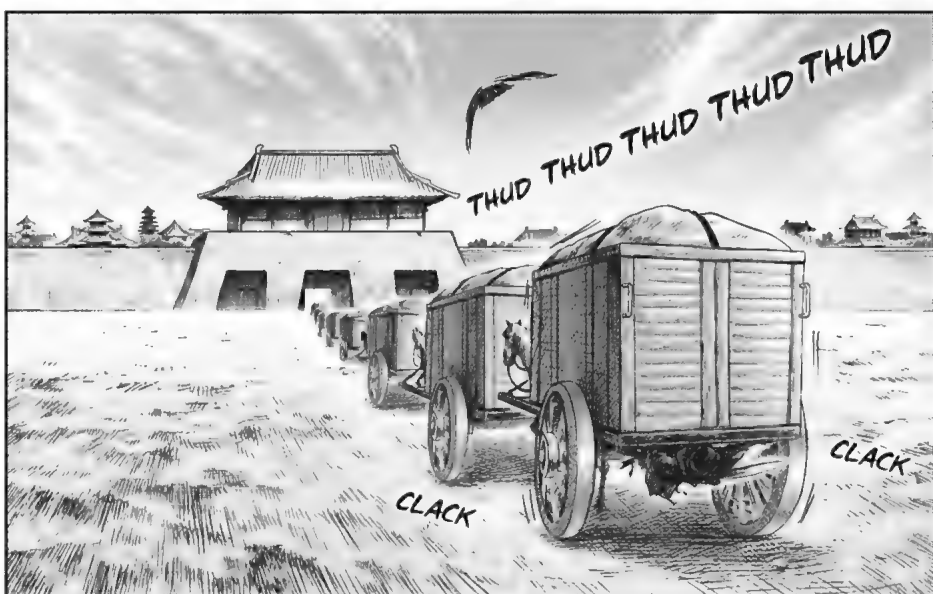
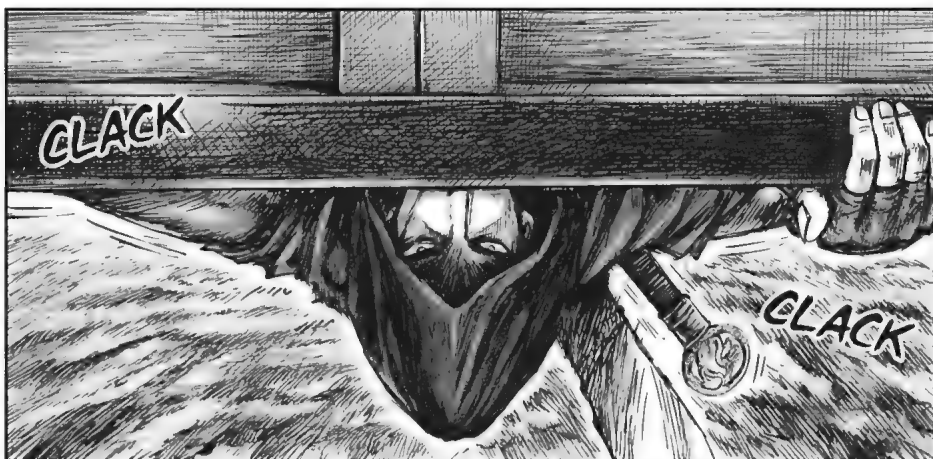
WHEN HE WAS
SLASHED WITH
A THOUSAND
BLADES,
HE CURSED
LOUDLY AND
SPAT BLOOD AT
AN LUSHAN.

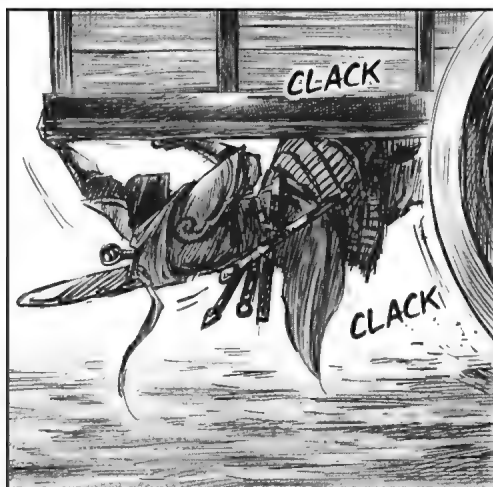




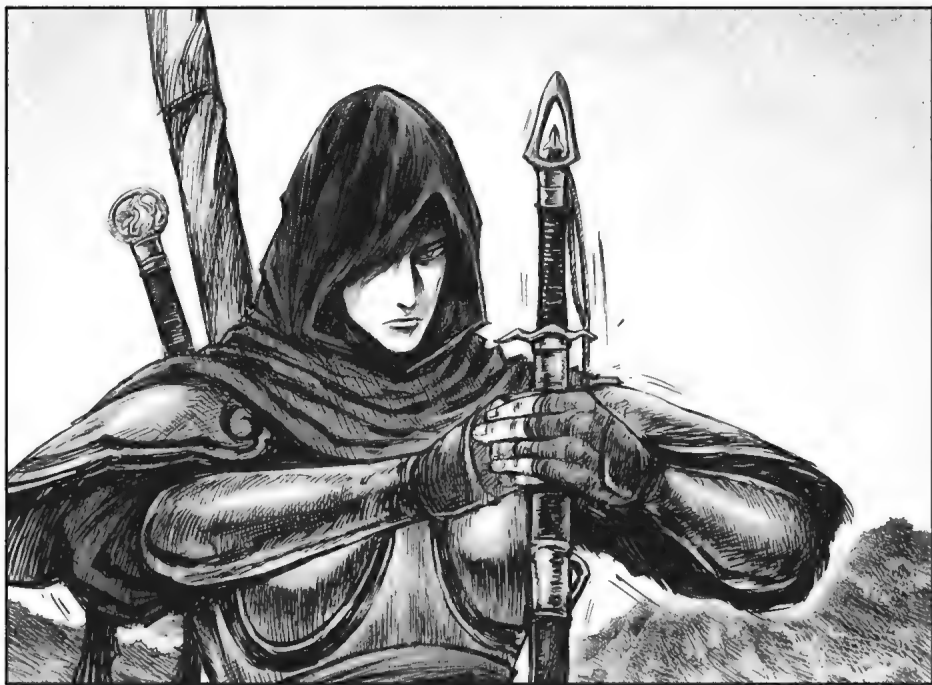






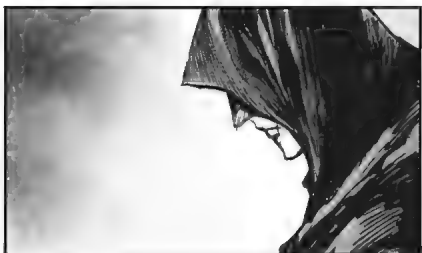










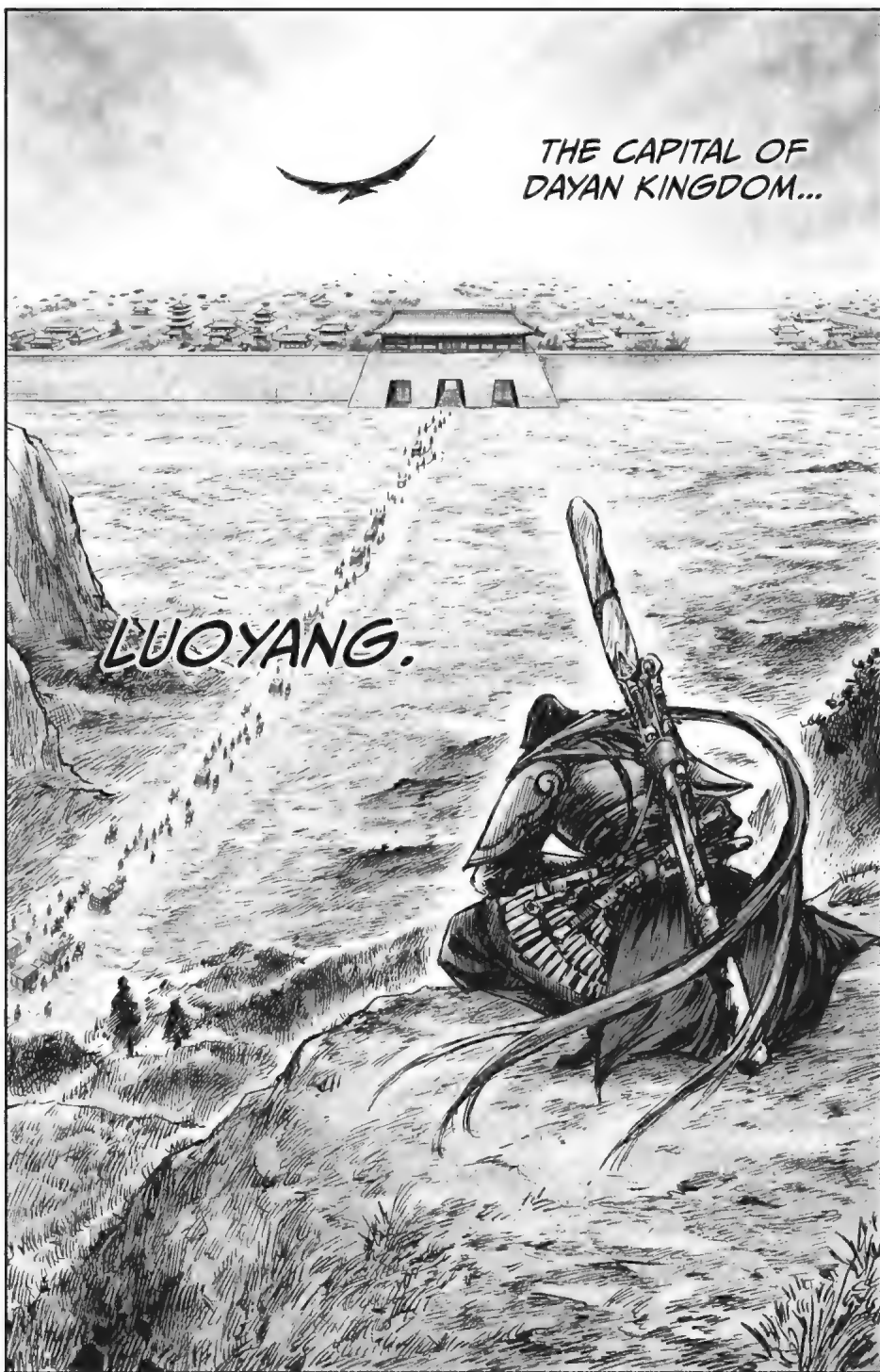




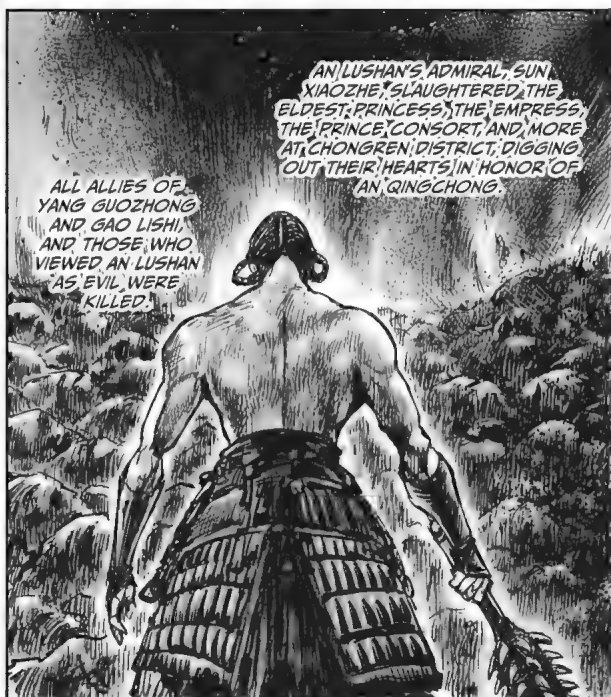
THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXVIII


THE CAPITAL OF
DAYAN KINGDOM...

LUOYANG.









756 A.D. THE
SEVENTEENTH DAY
OF THE SEVENTH
MONTH, THE DAY
OF JIAWU.

THE CITY OF
CHANG'AN WAS
ABLAZE.

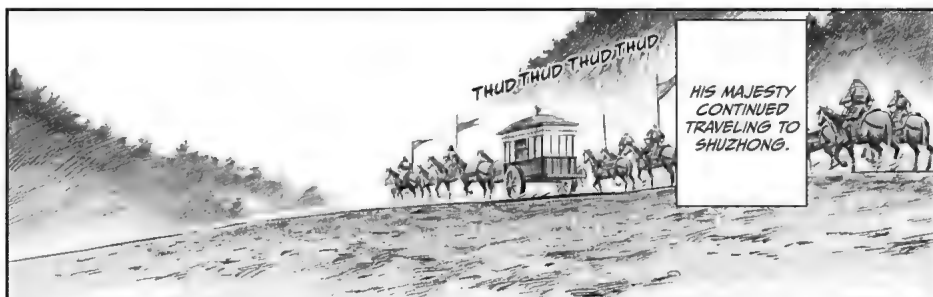


*TANG HOLLOW BIRD AND GRAPE PATTERNED SILVER FRAGRANCE SACHET
(COLLECTION OF TANG YI GOLD AND SILVER MUSEUM OF LUO YANG)*

*THE EMPEROR HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ISSUE AN EDICT FOR THE
IMPERIAL CONSORT TO BE HANGED IN THE PRAYER HALL. AT THE
AGE OF THIRTY-EIGHT, SHE WAS BURIED WEST OF THE POST ROAD.*

*THEN THE EMPEROR RETURNED FROM SHUZHONG AND ORDERED
THE IMPERIAL ENVOYS TO CONDUCT A REBURIAL. DURING THE FIRST
BURIAL, SHE WAS BOUND IN PURPLE CLOTH AND HER SKIN WAS ALREADY
DAMAGED, YET THE SACHET REMAINED.'*

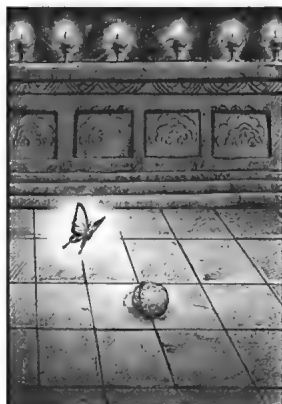
AT THIS POINT,
THE YANG FAMILY
HAD PERISHED.





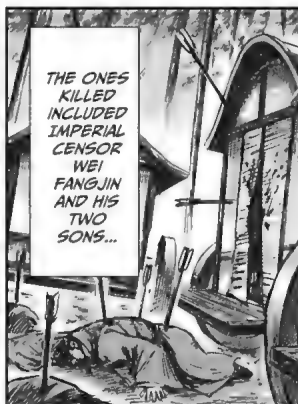
THEN, THE
SOLDIERS
POUNCED
ON HIM WITH
SWORDS
AND SPEARS,
BUTCHERING
HIS CORPSE.

CALVARY
TROOP
ZHANG
XIAOJING
FIRST SHOT
DOWN YANG
GUOZHONG
FROM HIS
HORSE.

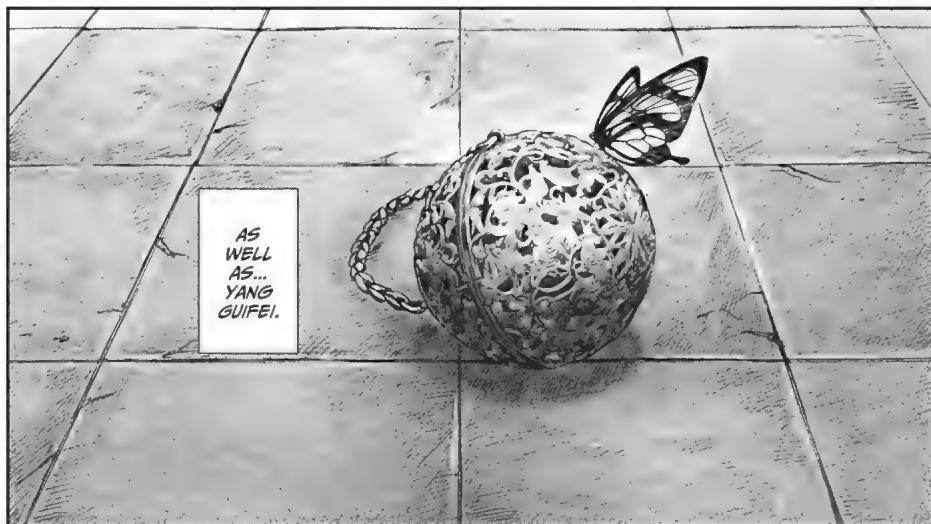


YANG
GUOZHONG'S
SONS, VICE
MINISTERS
OF FINANCE
YANG KUAN,
AND YANG XI.

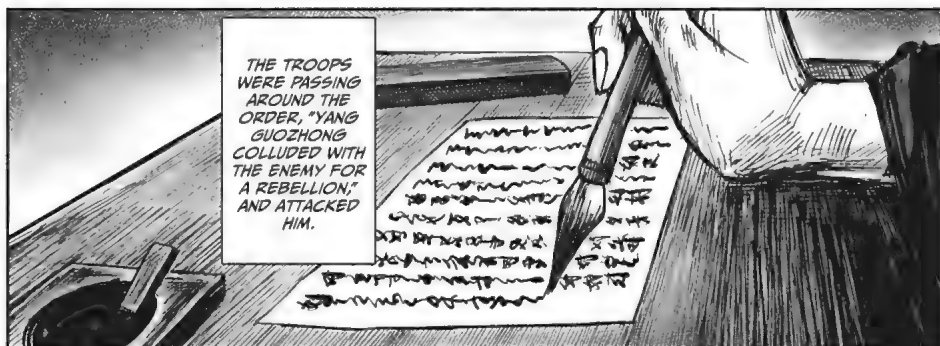
LADY HANGUO,
LADY QINGUO,
LADY GUOQUO,
AND LADY
GUOQUO'S
SON, PEI HUI...



THE ONES
KILLED
INCLUDED
IMPERIAL
CENSOR
WEI
FANGJIN
AND HIS
TWO
SONS...



AS
WELL
AS...
YANG
GUIFEI.

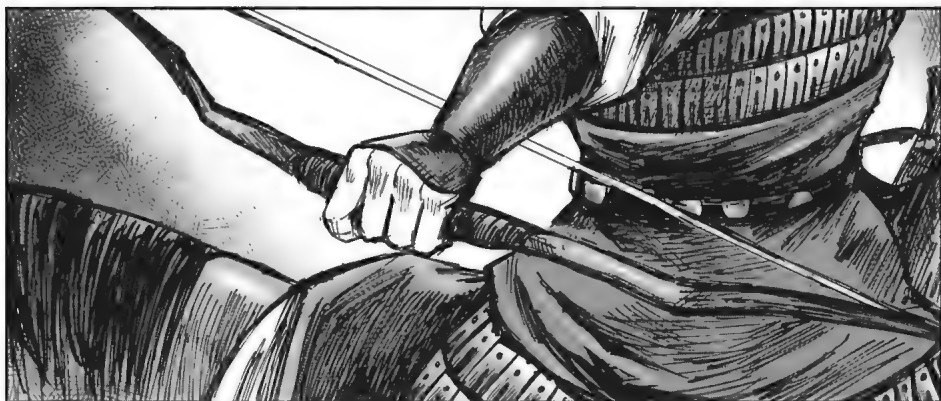




















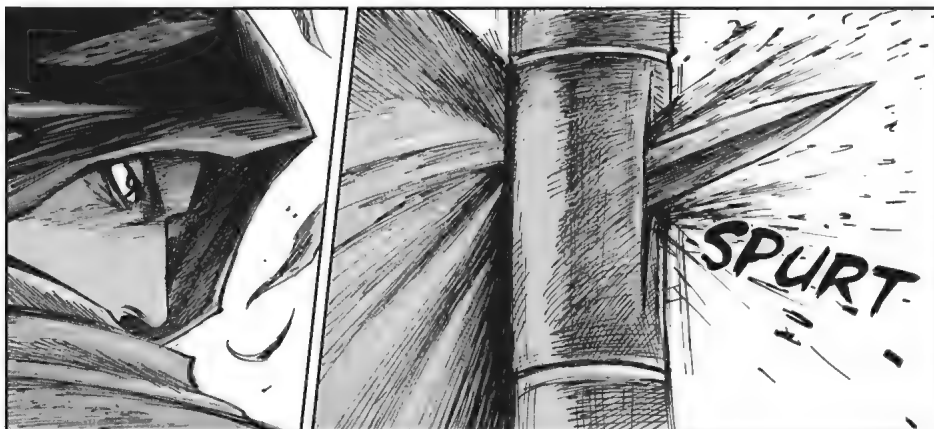


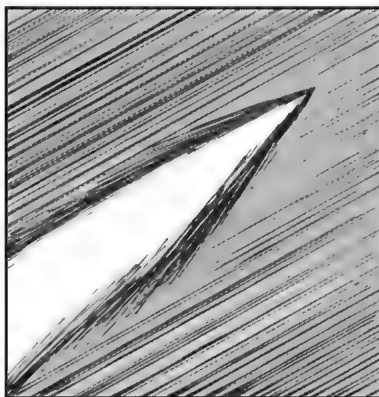


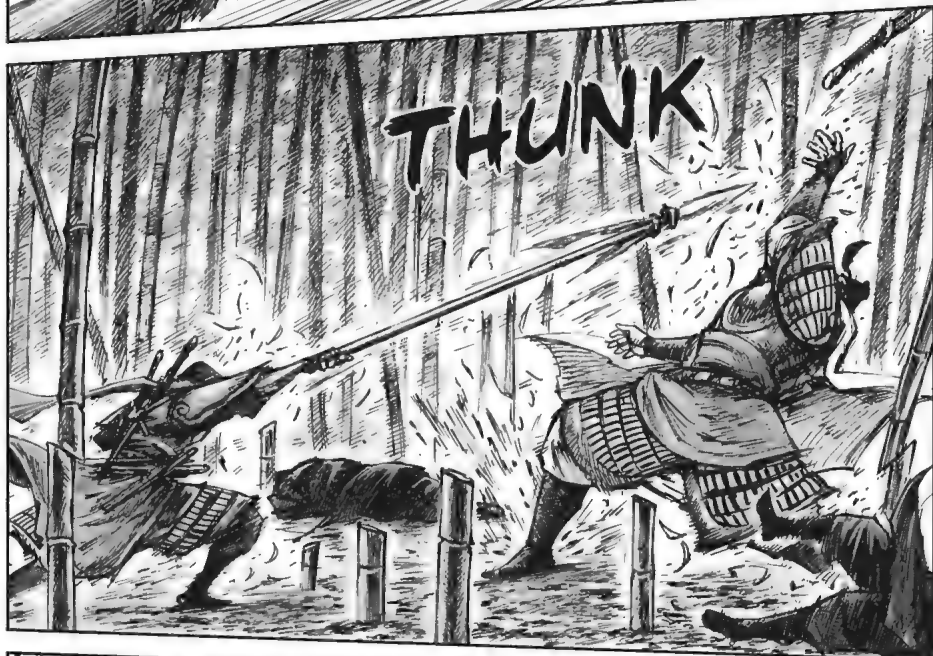
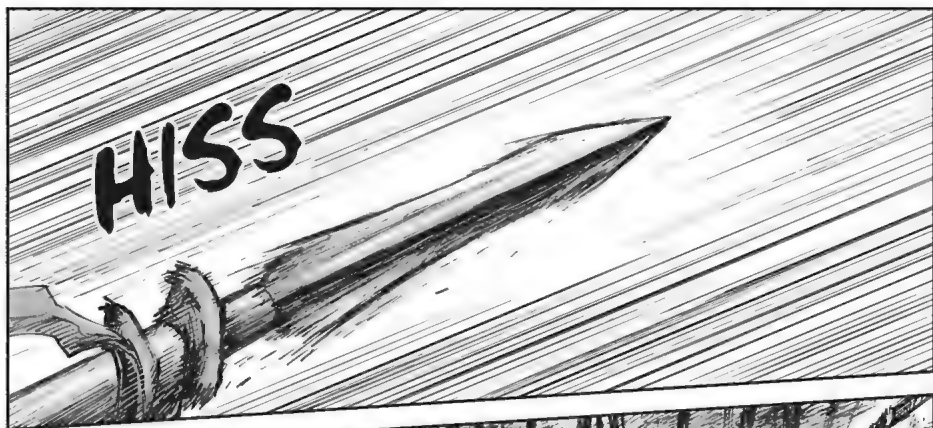






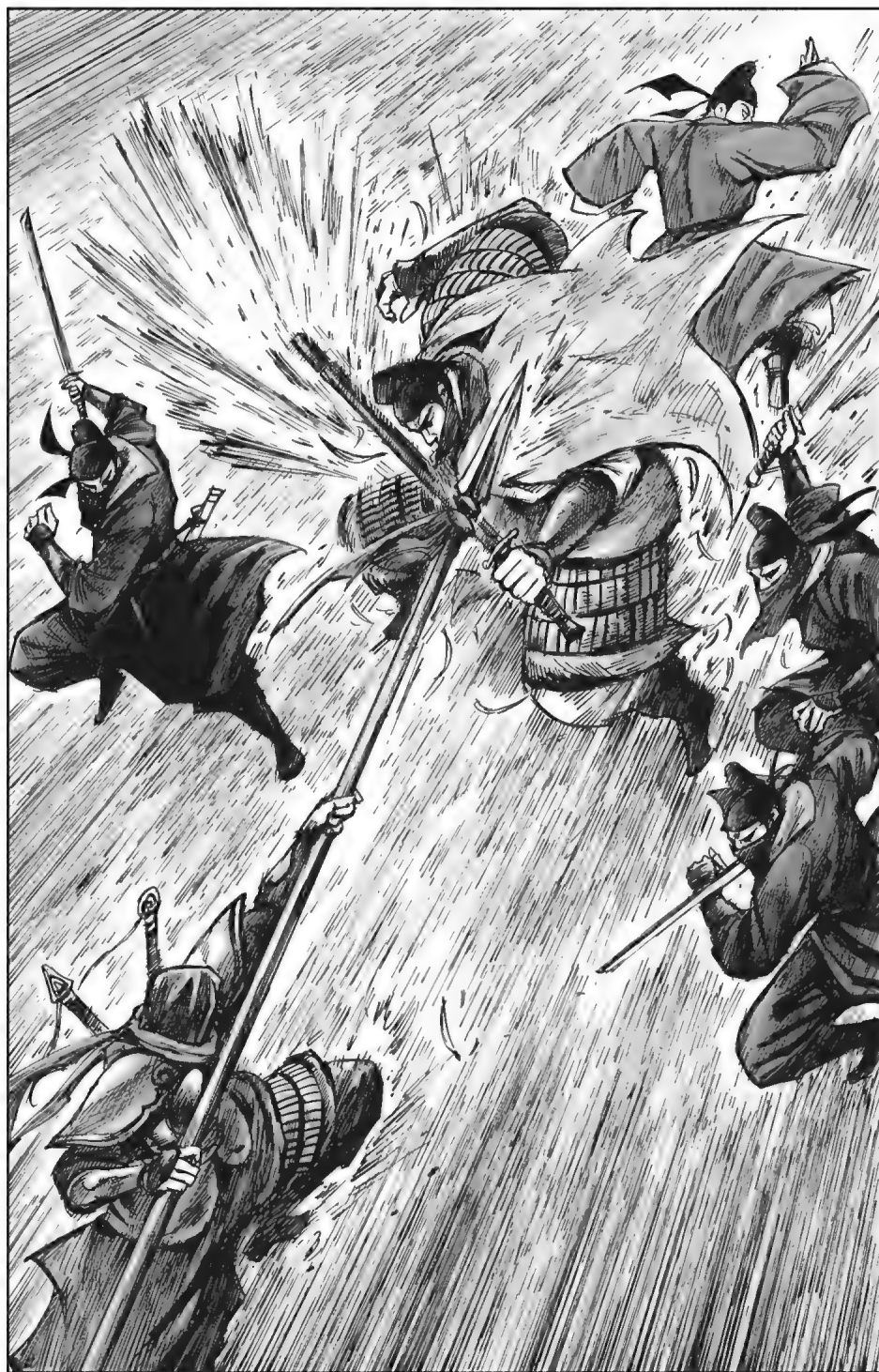




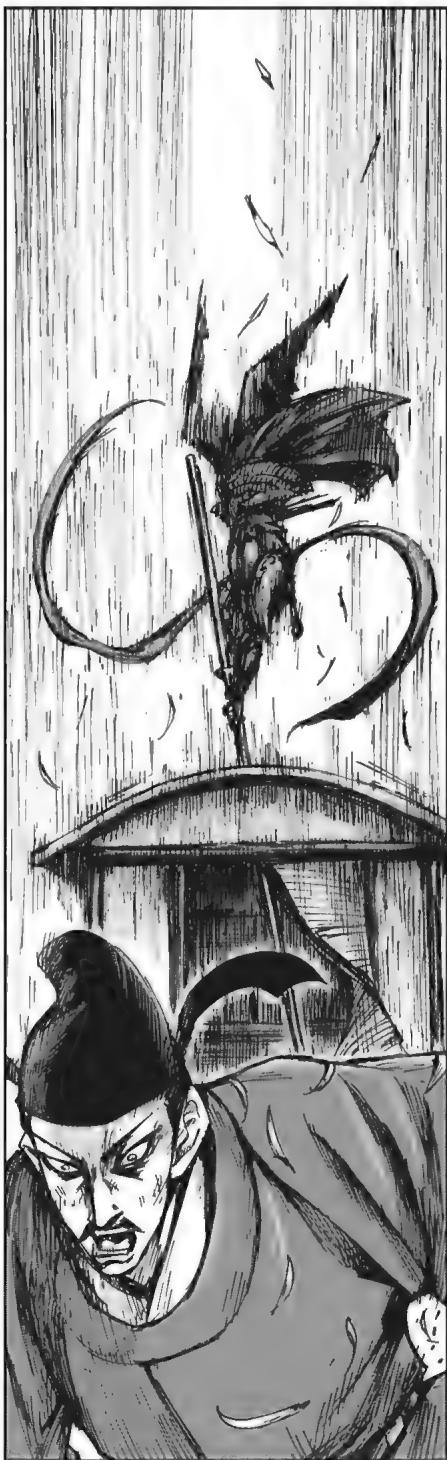






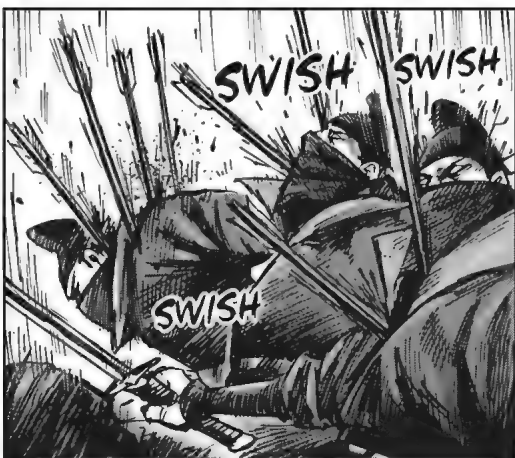




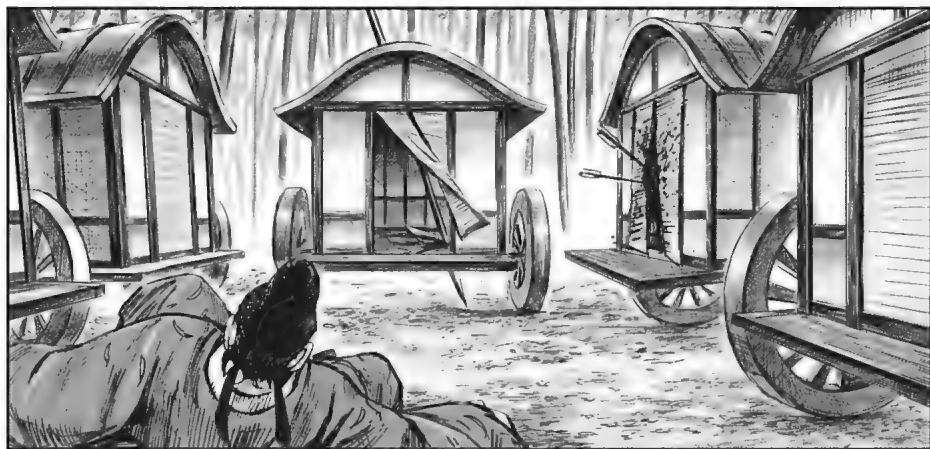


























HE'S
BENT ON
OPPOSING
US.

HE KILLED
SO FEW
ENEMIES,
BUT
CAUSED
MANY
DEATHS
FOR US.

EVER
SINCE HE
WAS IN
COMMAND
OF A
LARGE
NUMBER
OF TROOPS...



GESHU
HAN...

I SAW
HIS TRUE
COLORS A
LONG TIME
AGO.



HE IS AN
LUSHAN'S
ACCOMPLICE!

BEING HELD
HOSTAGE
IS JUST A
FARCE.



THAT JUST
MEANS
HE ALSO
SERVES
THE CROWN
PRINCE...



WIDEN



MILITARY
GOVERNOR
WANG ZHONGSI
SINGLE-HANDEDLY
NURTURED GESHU
HAN...

AND WANG
ZHONGSI IS THE
CROWN PRINCE'S
SUBORDINATE.



IN THIS PLACE,
HIS MAJESTY
WILL ONLY BE
MORE RELIANT
ON US.

BESIDES,
SHUZHONG
IS THE YANG
FAMILY'S LAND.
EVERYONE IS
OUR ALLY HERE.

YANG GUIFEI'S
ELDER SISTER
LADY GUOGUO



WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO
NEXT?

WELL...



THAT'S
ODD. HE'S
BEEN
ABSENT
LATELY.

HOWEVER...
WHY HASN'T
LORD GAO
COME OVER
TODAY?



IN THEIR
REPORT TO
THE IMPERIAL
COURT, THEY
FAILED TO
RESIST
WITH THEIR
LIVES AFTER
GESHU HAN'S
DEFEAT...

HE WAS HELD
HOSTAGE BY HIS
SUBORDINATES AND
SURRENDERED.

LAST NIGHT,
THE DEFEATED
SOLDIERS FROM
TONGGUAN
ARRIVED AT THE
POST HOUSE
AND JOINED
THE IMPERIAL
GUARDS.

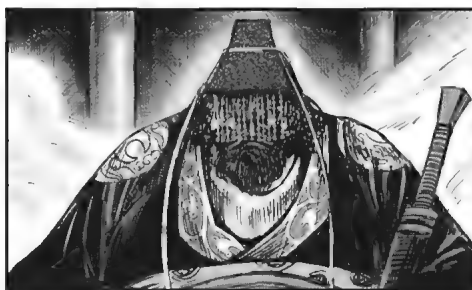
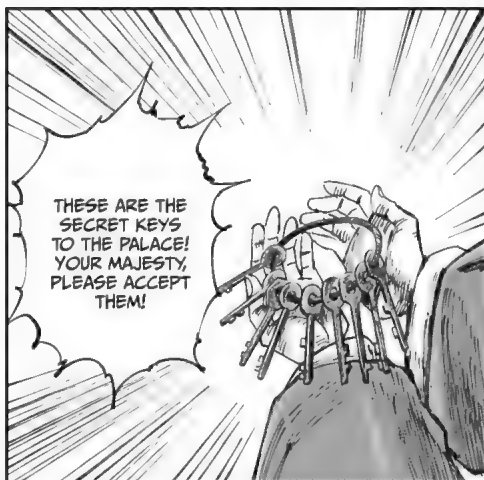


SWISH!



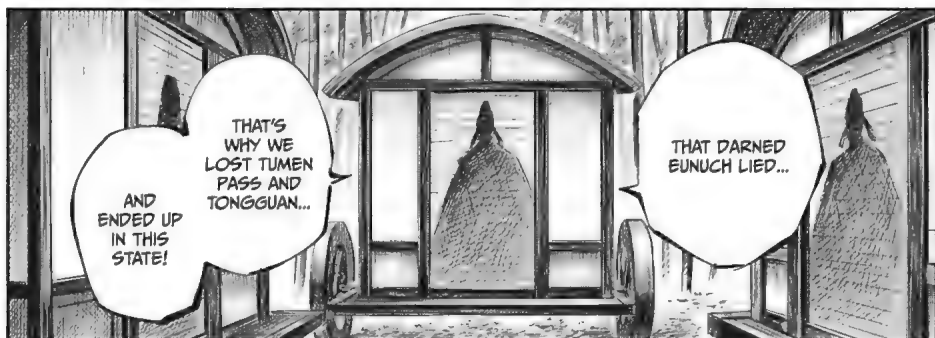










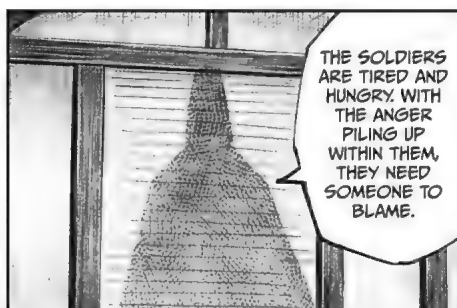




WHY AM I
SHOULDERING
ALL THE
BLAME?

NOW THAT
WE'RE IN
THIS STATE...

PRIME MINISTER
YANG GUOZHONG



THE SOLDIERS
ARE TIRED AND
HUNGRY. WITH
THE ANGER
PILING UP
WITHIN THEM,
THEY NEED
SOMEONE TO
BLAME.



IMPERIAL
CENSOR
WEI
FANGJIN

YET, WHO
WOULD
DARE TO
BLAME HIS
MAJESTY?



MASTER
YANG,
PLEASE
CALM
DOWN.



I HAVE
SPOKEN
ABOUT AN
LUSHAN'S
REBELLION
FOR TEN
YEARS...



HIS MAJESTY
SIMPLY
REFUSED TO
BELIEVE ME.

THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXVII



WE WILL
PASS
JINCHENG
AND
PROCEED
WESTWARD
ALONG THE
POST ROAD.



I WILL
CONTINUE
ON THIS
JOURNEY
WITH HIS
MAJESTY,
ONE WHERE
SURVIVAL
IS NOT A
GUARANTEE.

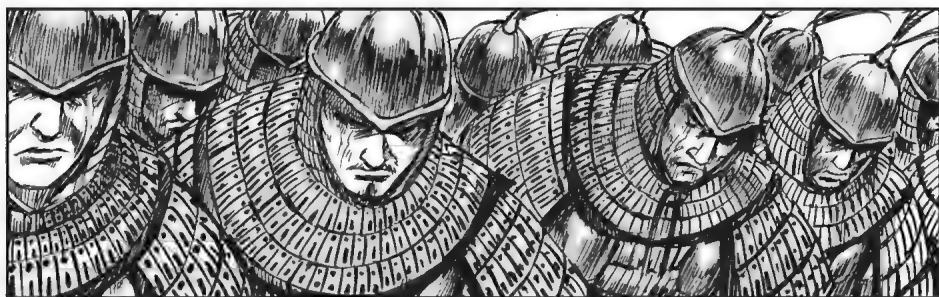
LI BAI...



BEFORE US
LIES A PLACE
CALLED "MA
WEI YI."









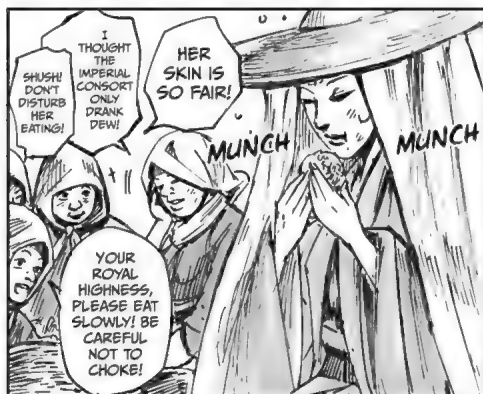
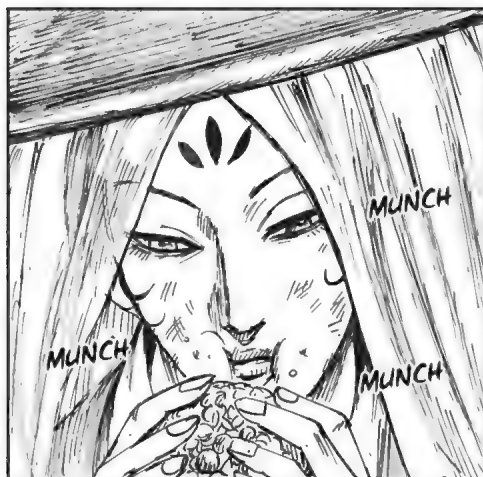


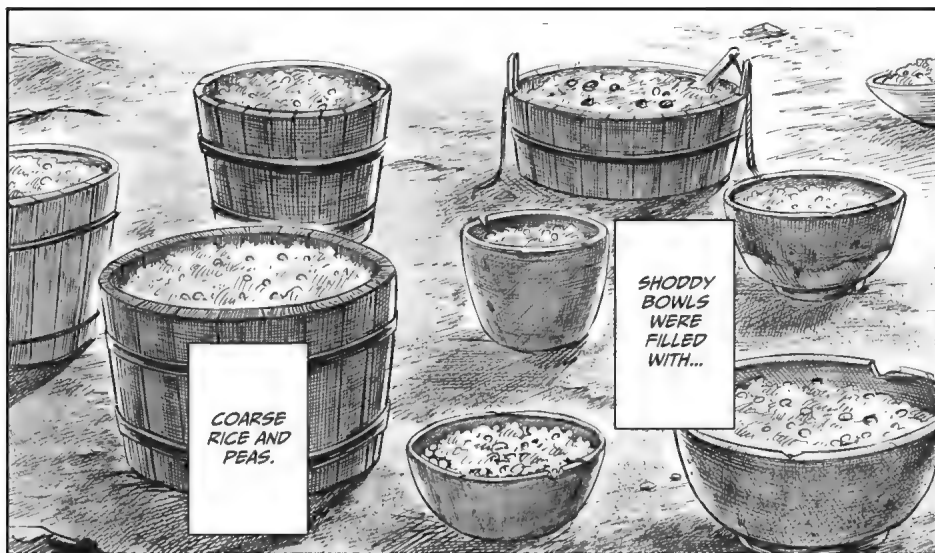




*PASSAGE: A TRAVEL PERMIT OF THE TANG DYNASTY

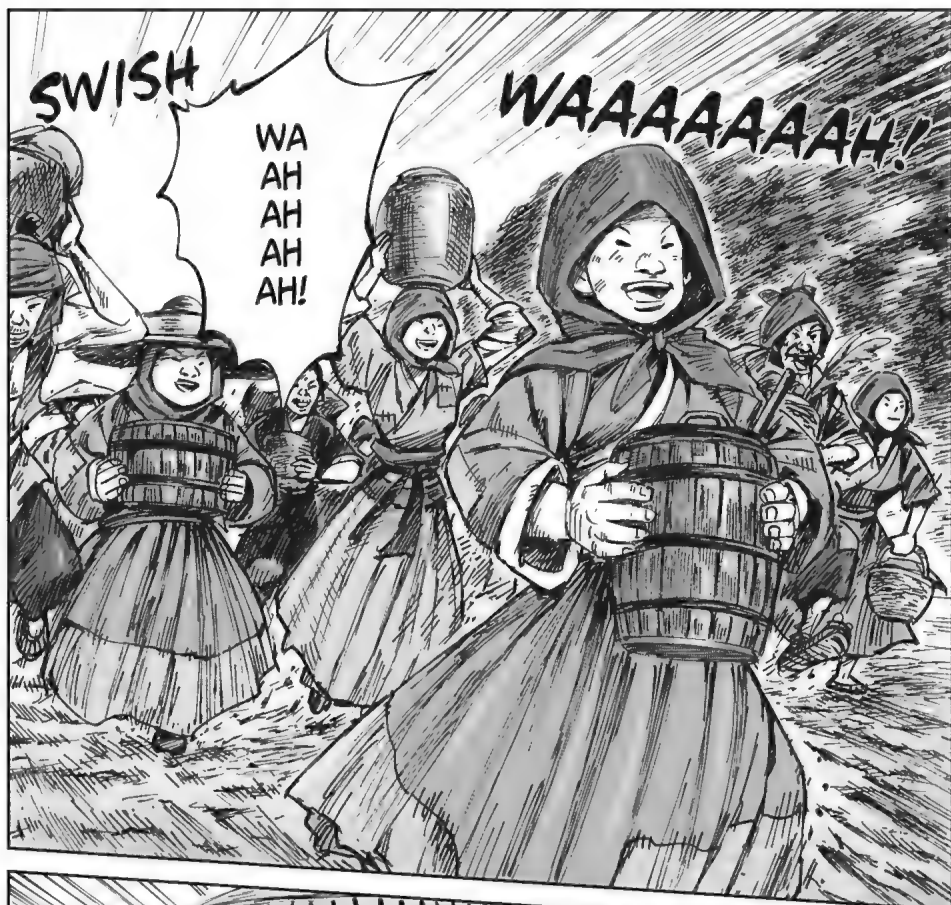






*COARSE RICE: BROWN RICE.









SHUT
UP!



IMPERTINENT
FOLKS! HOW
DARE YOU ACT
SO IMPUDENTLY
BEFORE THE
EMPEROR!

MEN!
ARREST
THIS
MADMAN!



YANG
ZHAO, STAND
DOWN!

YANG ZHAO: YANG GUOZHONG'S REAL NAME. 'GUOZHONG' IS THE NAME GIVEN BY EMPEROR XUANZONG.



ARE YOU
REALLY... THE
EMPEROR?

LORD IN
YELLOW...



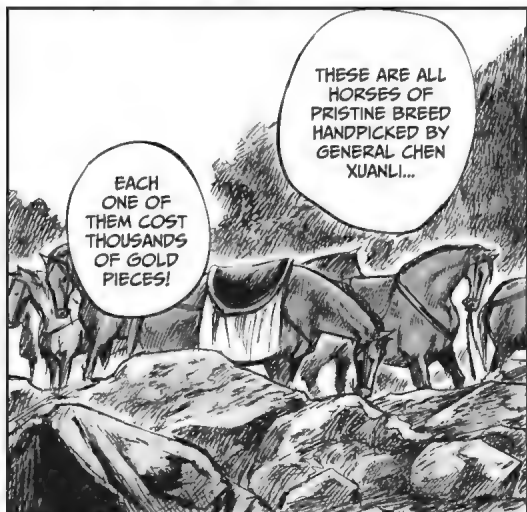
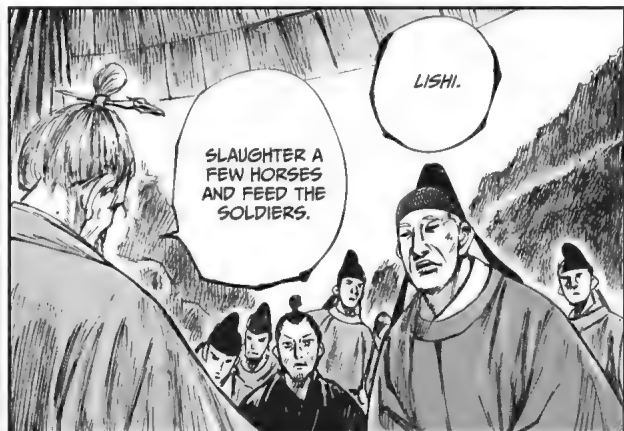


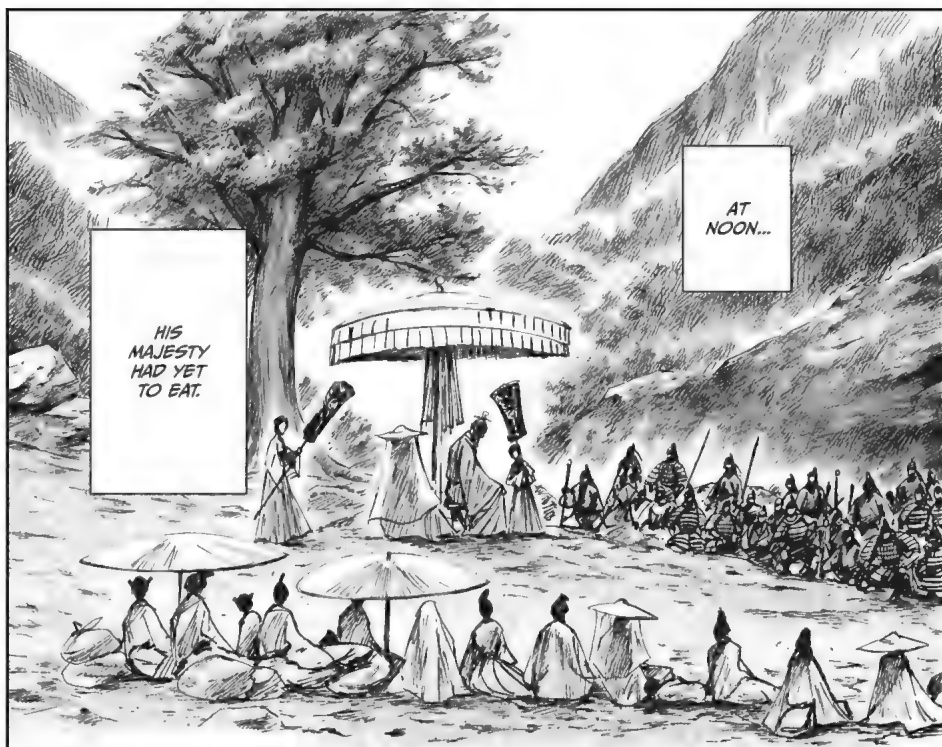














WANGXIANG
PALACE HAD
LONG BEEN
VACATED.



DAMNED
BASTARD...



HOW DARE
HE ESCAPE
WITH THE
MAGISTRATE...!



NOT EVEN
A SINGLE
GRAIN
OF RICE
COULD BE
FOUND.



BUT HE
FAILED TO
WELCOME
THE
CARRIAGES.

GAO
LISHI HAD
DISPATCHED
EUNUCH
WANG
LUOGING
HERE TO
TIDY UP THE
PLACE AND
PREPARE
FOOD...



AFTER
HURRYING
FOR
HOURS,

WE WERE
TIRED AND
HUNGRY.



AT THE HOUR
OF CHEN, WE
ARRIVED AT
WANGXIAN
PALACE IN
XIANYANG.

*THE HOUR OF CHEN: 8 A.M. - 10 A.M.

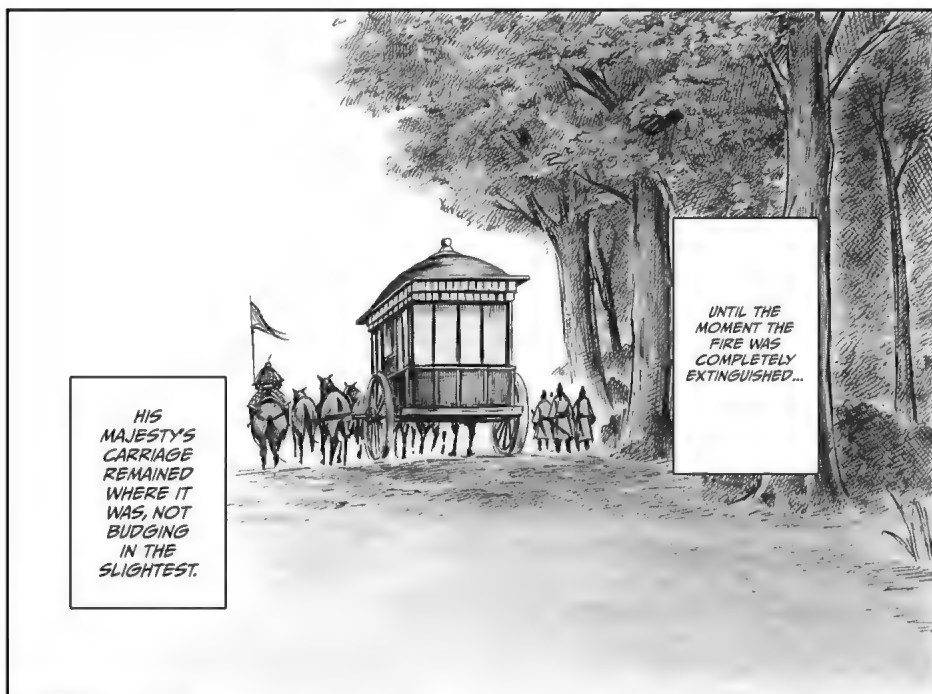


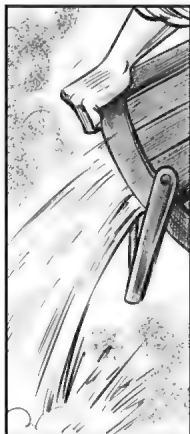
WAS
ALL WE
WANTED.

A STEAMING
FLAT-BREAD
WITH A BOWL
OF LAMB
SOUP...



YET—





THE
CARRIAGES
PASSED A
TEMPORARY
BRIDGE
SPANNING
WEIHE
RIVER.

WHEN
DAWN
BROKE...



HOWEVER,
HE DID NOT
SUMMON
YANG
GUOZHONG
THIS TIME.

HIS
MAJESTY
SMELLED
BURNING.



YANG
GUOZHONG
GAVE THE
ORDER TO
BURN THE
BRIDGE
DOWN ONCE
WE PASSED
IT...



TO
HINDER AN
LUSHAN'S
PURSUIT.

ENOUGH.





HENCE, THE
CARRIAGES
STARTED
MOVING
ONCE
MORE.

YANG
GUOZHONG
RELUCTANTLY
COMPLIED.



...WAS I
MISTAKEN?



I SEEM TO
NOTICE TEARS
GLEAMING AT
THE CORNERS
OF GAO
LISHI'S EYES.

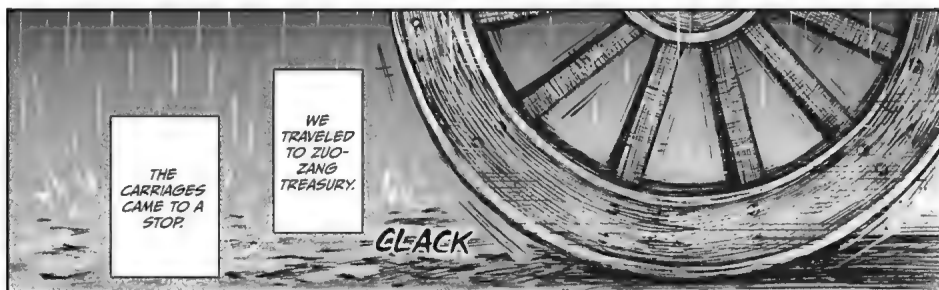


THIS IS
GAO
LISHI!!





I WONDER...
HOW HIS
MAJESTY
IS FEELING
RIGHT NOW.



THE
CARRIAGES
CAME TO A
STOP.

WE
TRAVELED
TO ZUO-
ZANG
TREASURY.

GLEACK



WHY
HAVE WE
STOPPED?



YOUR
MAJESTY.

PLEASE
ALLOW A
SLIGHT
HALT.



GUOZHONG.



THERE
WAS NO
FANFARE...

NONE OF
THOSE WHO
LIVED OUTSIDE
THE PALACE
WERE WITH
US, NOT EVEN
THE KINGS,
PRINCES, OR
ARISTOCRATS.

THIS WAS
A SILENT
EVACUATION.



NOR ANY
WEEPING
TO BE
HEARD.

THERE
WAS NO
FANFARE...



QUIETLY
WALKED
FORWARD
WITH THE
ENTOURAGE.

EVERYONE
JUST
QUIETLY...



UNDER THE
ESCORT OF
2,000 IMPERIAL
GUARDS...

OUR
ENTOURAGE
LEFT CHANG'AN.

THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXVI



THE CROWN
PRINCE.



BEHIND THEM
WERE THE
IMPERIAL
FAMILY,
OFFICIALS,
CONCUBINES,
AND PALACE
MAIDS.

GAO
LISHI WAS
SITUATED
BESIDE THE
IMPERIAL
CARRIAGE
TO WAIT
ON HIS
MAJESTY.



THE ONE
LEADING
IN THE
VANGUARD
WAS PRIME
MINISTER
YANG
GUOZHONG.

WITH HIM
WAS HIS NEW
FAVORITE,
WANG
CHENGYE,
AS WELL
AS A SMALL
HANDFUL OF
NOBLES.

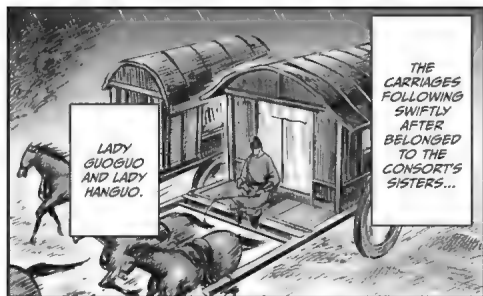


THE
COMMANDER
OF THE
IMPERIAL
GUARDS WAS
LONGWU
GENERAL
CHEN XUANLI.



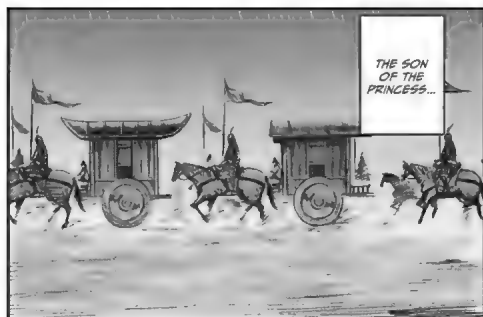
HIS
MAJESTY
LEFT
THROUGH
YANQIU
GATE AND
HEADED
FOR
SHUZHONG.

THE DAY OF
YIMO OF
THE SIXTH
MONTH.
DAWN.
A LIGHT
DRIZZLE.



LADY
GUOBUO
AND LADY
HANGUO.

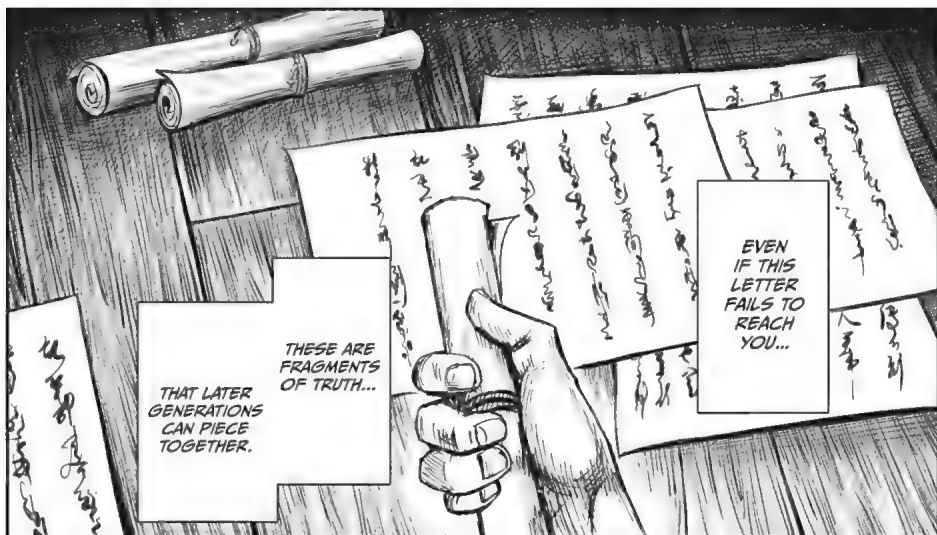
THE
CARRIAGES
FOLLOWING
SWIFTLY
AFTER
BELONGED
TO THE
CONSORT'S
SISTERS...



THE SON
OF THE
PRINCESS...



INSIDE THE
IMPERIAL
CARRIAGES
WERE HIS
MAJESTY
AND THE
IMPERIAL
CONSORT.



THAT LATER
GENERATIONS
CAN PIECE
TOGETHER.

THESE ARE
FRAGMENTS
OF TRUTH...

EVEN
IF THIS
LETTER
FAILS TO
REACH
YOU...



I WILL
FOLLOW
HIM ON THIS
JOURNEY
WHERE
SURVIVAL
IS NOT A
GUARANTEE.

HIS
MAJESTY
HAS
DECIDED
TO
ABANDON
CHANG'AN.

I JUST
RECEIVED
NEWS
FROM
EUNUCH
GAO LISHI.

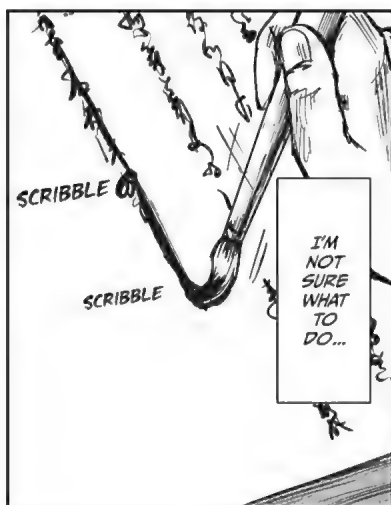
THIS IS
THE ONLY
THING I
CAN DO.

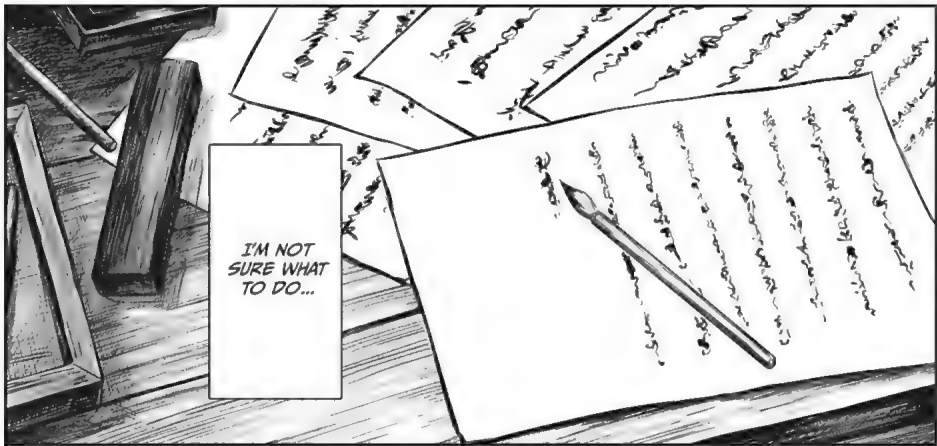
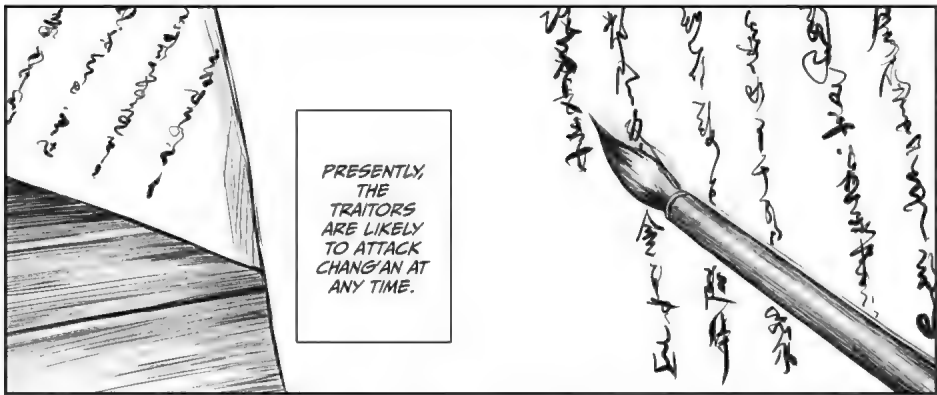
I WILL
RECORD
EVERYTHING
I SEE
AND HEAR
ON THIS
JOURNEY.











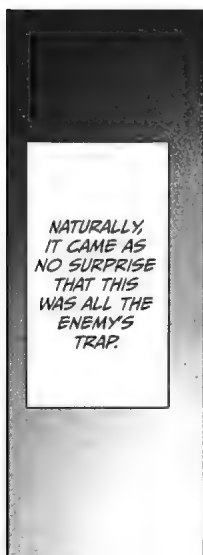


(TO) LI
BAI-

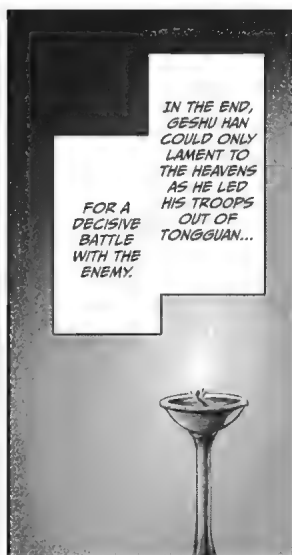


MILITARY
MORALE IS
WAVERING.

ACCORDING
TO YANG
GUOZHONG'S
SOURCES,
AN LUSHAN'S
VANGUARD
TROOPS ARE
FILLED WITH
OLD SOLDIERS.

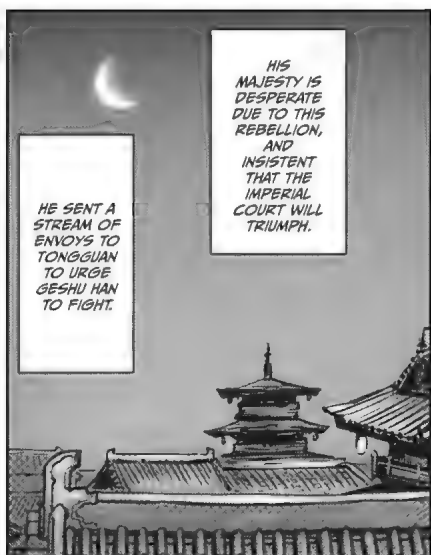


NATURALLY,
IT CAME AS
NO SURPRISE
THAT THIS
WAS ALL THE
ENEMY'S
TRAP.



IN THE END,
GESHU HAN
COULD ONLY
LAMENT TO
THE HEAVENS
AS HE LED
HIS TROOPS
OUT OF
TONGGUAN...

FOR A
DECISIVE
BATTLE
WITH THE
ENEMY.



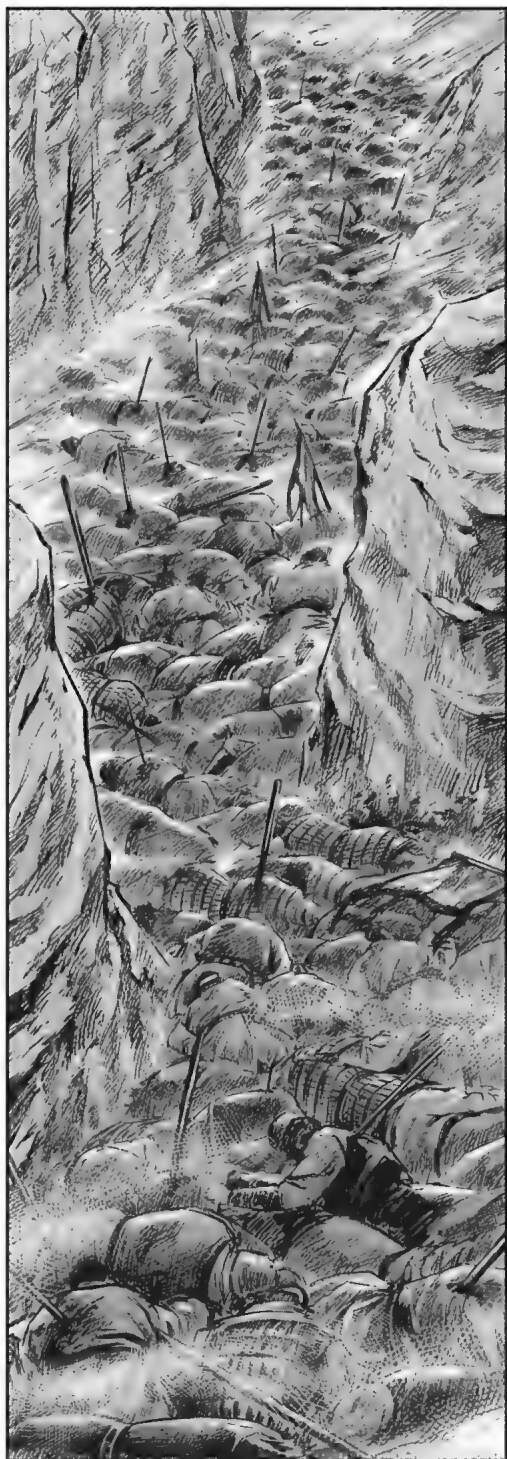
HIS
MAJESTY IS
DESPERATE
DUE TO THIS
REBELLION,
AND
INSISTENT
THAT THE
IMPERIAL
COURT WILL
TRIUMPH.

HE SENT A
STREAM OF
ENVOYS TO
TONGGUAN
TO URGE
GESHU HAN
TO FIGHT.



200,000
IMPERIAL
TROOPS
WERE
WIPE
OUT.

TONGGUAN
FELL.



THE DAY OF
XINMAO THE SIXTH
MONTH OF THE
FIFTEENTH YEAR
OF TIANBAO

(756 A.D.)

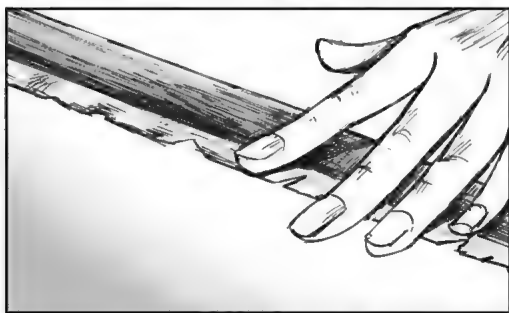
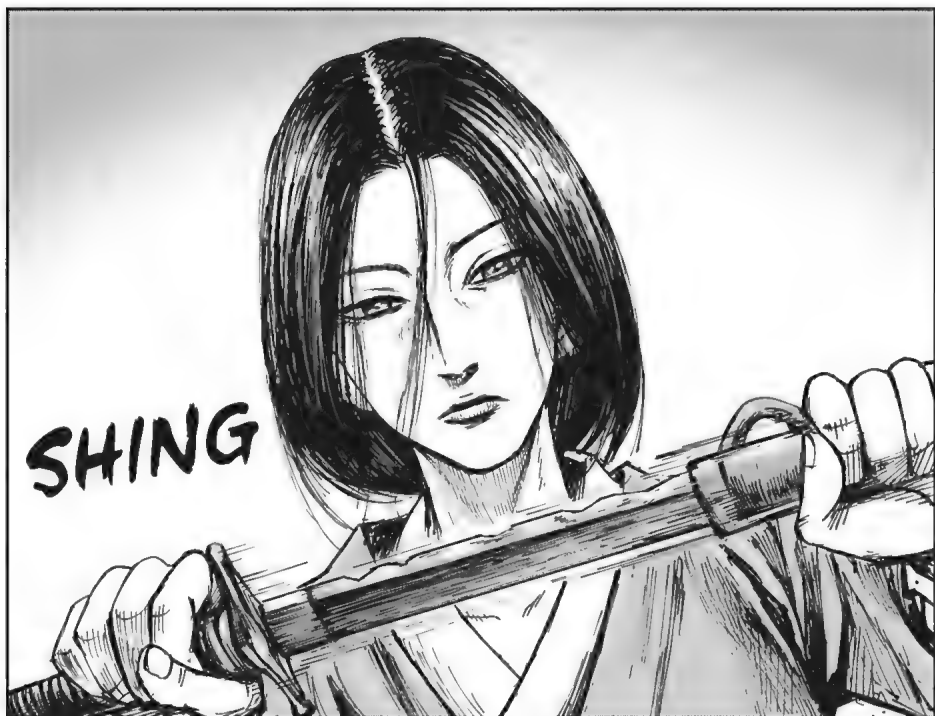


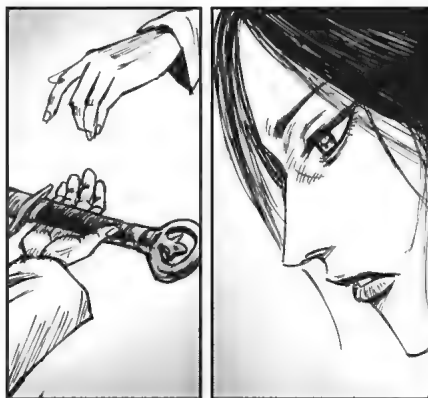


















I AM THAT
SHADOW.



AND
ELIMINATE
THE ROOTS
OF EVIL IN
THE IMPERIAL
COURT.

I WILL
GO TO
CHANG'AN...





*YANZHAO: ANOTHER NAME FOR THE TANG DYNASTY'S HEBEI PROVINCE. THIS NAME CAME ABOUT AS THIS REGION USED TO BELONG TO THE TWO KINGDOMS OF YAN AND ZHAO DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD.



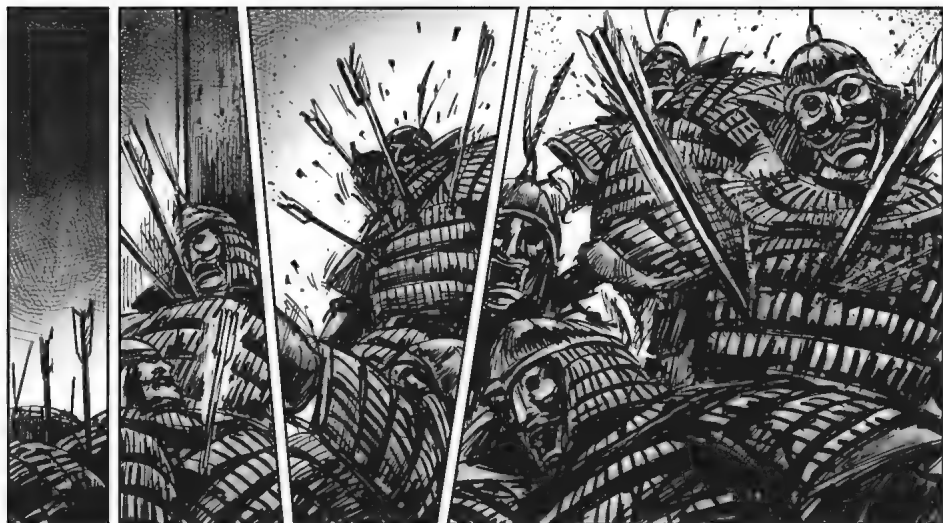






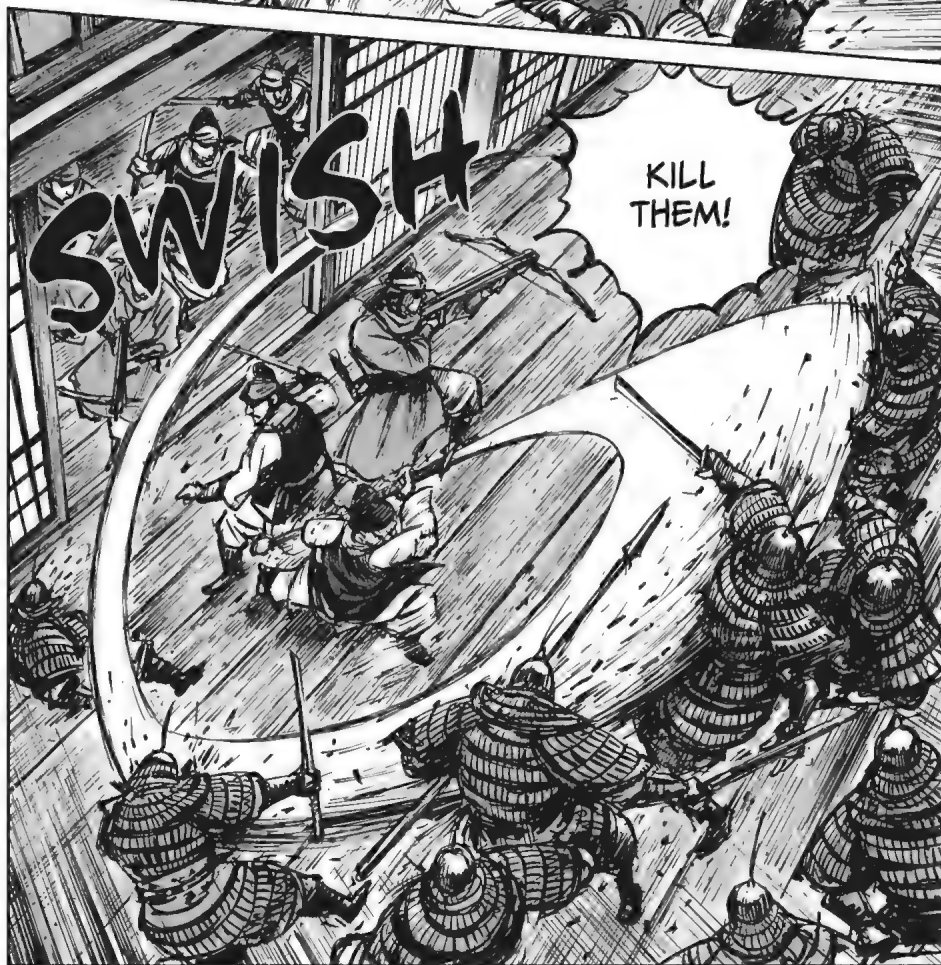
秘藏也多寶佛塔證經之跡現也發明寶手
 龍象之微無取熊羅之兆誕彌祿月炳然殊
 法華在手宿命潛悟如識金環抱持不遺若
 從持誦至多寶塔品身心泊然如入禪定忽
 而許王雅及居士趙崇信女普意善來稽首
 福清澄泛池中有方舟入見寶塔自宮而
 北於有成燈明示於無盡非至德精
 於幕階所題志誦經勸精行道
 勅內侍趙思儒求諸寶
 當後佛之授記皆漢明永平
 楊順景宣 百令禪
 光輝至四載塔事將就表



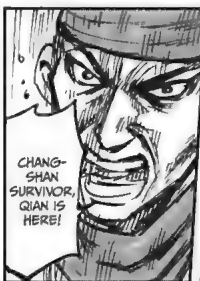


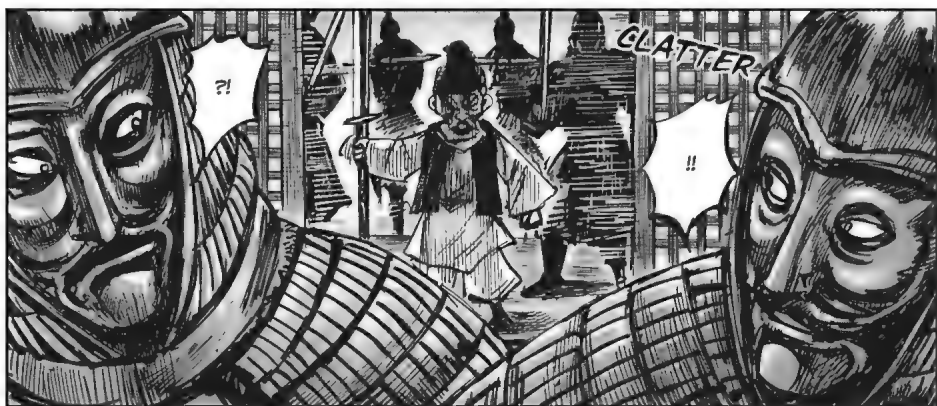


HONOR
CHANGSHAN!



KILL
THEM!















HOWEVER,
THOSE OLD
RULES ARE
STORIES FROM
CENTURIES
AGO. EVEN AS A
CHILD, I HATED
LISTENING TO
THEM.



THE YAN
FAMILY HAS
PASSED DOWN
GENERATIONS OF
FAMILY TEACHINGS.
MY COUSIN
ALWAYS INSISTED
ON STICKING TO
THOSE ANCIENT
RULES AND
REFUSED TO
VIOLATE A
SINGLE ONE.



I THOUGHT
THEY WERE
JUST NONSENSE
THAT THE OLDER
GENERATION
PREACHED.



ACTUALLY,
MANY TRUTHS
REQUIRE
EXPERIENCE TO
UNDERSTAND.



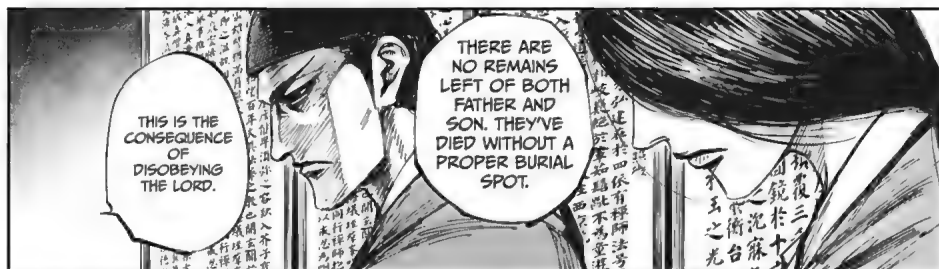
ONE
SHOULD
NEVER
FORSAKE
INTEGRITY AND
DIGNITY.

FOR
EXAMPLE...



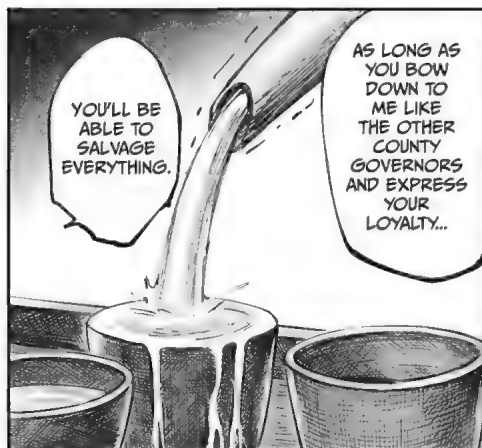
YOUR
COUSIN WAS
DRAGGED
TO LUOYANG
AND SLASHED
WITH A
THOUSAND
SWORDS.

YOUR
NEPHEW
HAS BEEN
BEHEADED.



THIS IS THE
CONSEQUENCE
OF
DISOBEYING
THE LORD.

THERE ARE
NO REMAINS
LEFT OF BOTH
FATHER AND
SON. THEY'VE
DIED WITHOUT A
PROPER BURIAL
SPOT.

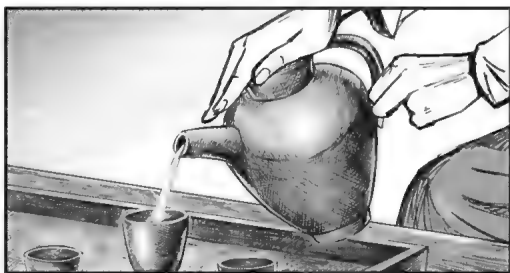


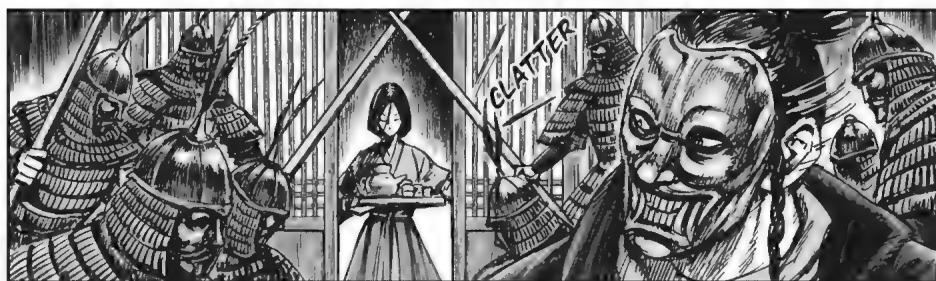
YOU'LL BE
ABLE TO
SALVAGE
EVERYTHING.

AS LONG AS
YOU BOW
DOWN TO
ME LIKE
THE OTHER
COUNTY
GOVERNORS
AND EXPRESS
YOUR LOYALTY...



HOWEVER,
OUR LORD IS
MAGNANIMOUS.







RIGHT NOW,
EMPEROR
XIONGWU OF
DAYAN WILL OFFER
YOU ONE LAST
CHANCE.

THOSE WHO
SUBMIT TO ME
WILL PROSPER.
THOSE WHO
OPPOSE ME
SHALL PERISH.

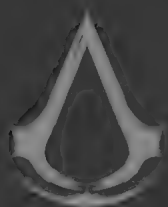
AN LUSHAN'S
ENVOY

DUAN
ZIGUANG

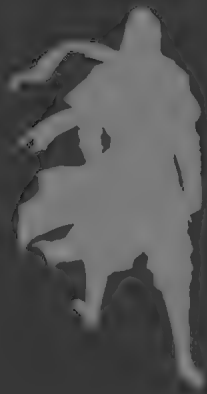
THE HIDDEN-ONES

CHAPTER XXXV





ASSASSIN'S
CREED
DYNASTY





TANG YELLOW GLAZED HOODED TERRACOTTA
WARRIOR RIDING A HORSE (COLLECTION OF
XI'AN MUSEUM)

塔日之先輝至四載塔事將就表請慶齋歸功
學日鳴運滙深非
更善下補詩法

HE IS THE
COUSIN OF
CHANGSHAN'S
GOVERNOR,
YAN GAOQING...

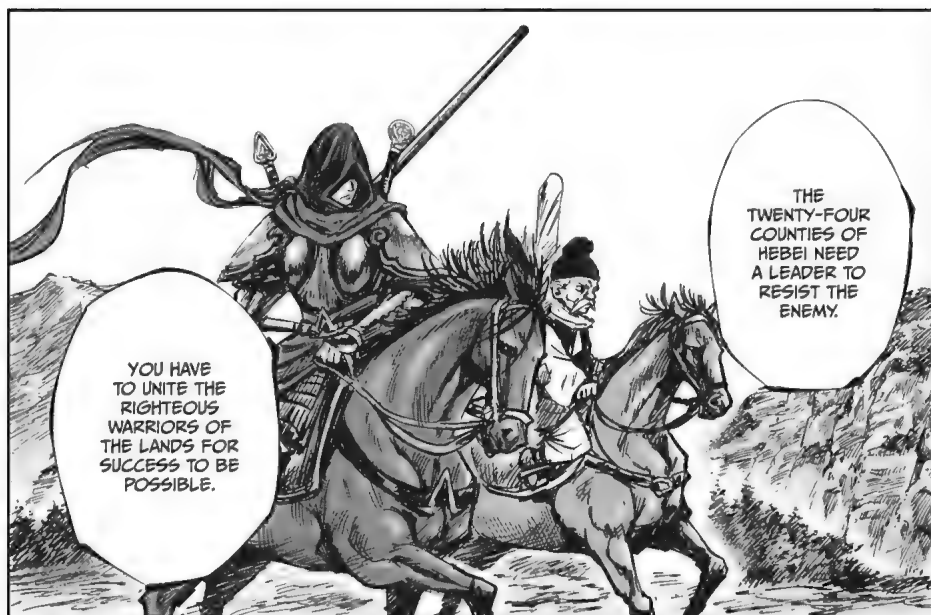
七十粒至六
一卷觀音聲
君生寫妙法
云師弘濟之
靜深秀結以
猛獸勿如戰
佛事春羅方
而歸一八萬
月齒達目月
圓常之理門
有為通解脫
於文字

妙法蓮華經一
漸之稱感達人
無以鑒於誠願
持結以弘微砥
如我包有與其
羅方寸千名盛
我禪師免嗣其
八萬法藏我為
日月而望之屬
理門人若茹如
解脫於文字舉
事微理含毫強
名偈曰

蓮華圓頓深入
崇焉章淨域真
大宗明大海吞
流崇山納壤教
門稱頌慈力能
廣功起聚沙德
成合掌



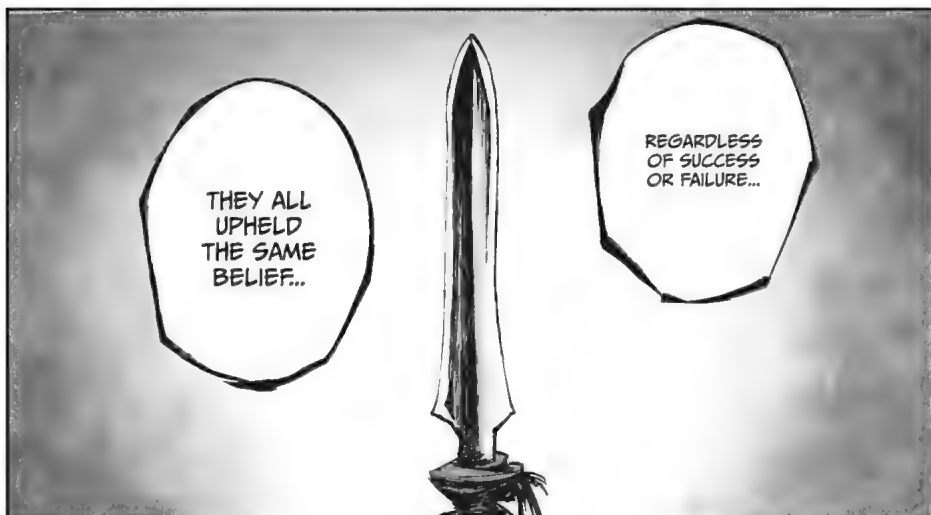
YAN
ZHENQING.



ASSASSINATING
A KING...



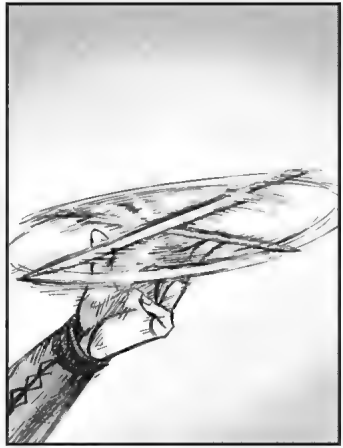
IS NO DIFFERENT
FROM
ASSASSINATING ANY
OTHER MAN.











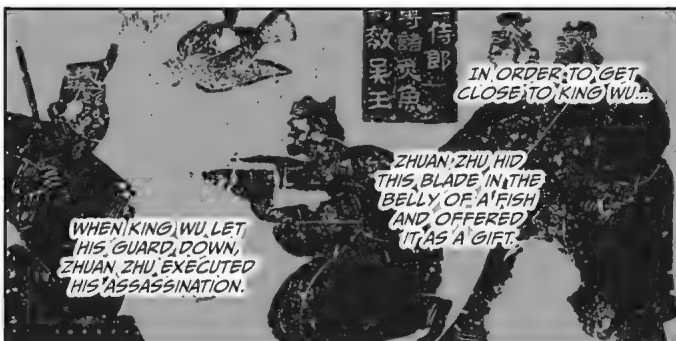


IS THE
LEGENDARY
WEAPON
BELONGING
TO ONE OF
THE FIVE
ANCIENT
ASSASSINS,
ZHUANG ZHU.

THIS
DAGGER...



A HIDDEN
MENACE,
IT SLICES
IRON LIKE
MUD.



一侍郎
殺諸侯
吳王

IN ORDER TO GET
CLOSE TO KING WU...

WHEN KING WU LET
HIS GUARD DOWN,
ZHUANG ZHU EXECUTED
HIS ASSASSINATION.

ZHUANG ZHU HID
THIS BLADE IN THE
BELLY OF A FISH
AND OFFERED
IT AS A GIFT.



THE FISH
BELLY
BLADE.

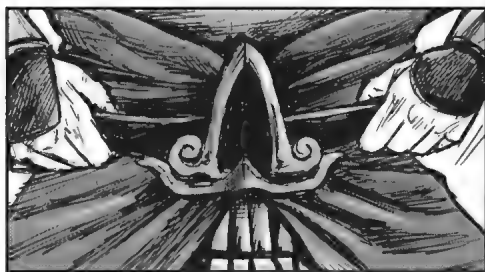


INFILTRATING
THE MIDST OF
TEN THOUSAND
SOLDIERS TO LOP
OFF THE HEAD
OF THE ENEMIES'
LEADER.



LIKE AN IRON
BEAST...

UNSTOPPABLE IN
YOUR MARCH,





AND
PREVENT IT
FROM FALLING
INTO THE HANDS
OF ENEMIES.

INK VILLAGE
WAS BUILT ON
THIS LAND TO
PROTECT THIS
PLACE...




EVER SINCE
THE KAIYUAN
ERA, THE
ASSASSINS
HAVE LOST
ALL HEIRS.



YOU
ARE NOT
FIGHTING
ALONE.

E'ER.



IT IS
CALLED THE
'NORTHERN
TREASURY OF
THE WORLD.'

HENCE, AFTER
UNIFYING THE SIX
STATES, QIN SHI
HUANG ORDERED
ALL WEAPONS ON
HIS LAND TO BE
CONFISCATED,
AND FOR ALL
ASSASSINS TO BE
EXTERMINATED.

JING KE'S
ASSASSINATION
OF QIN SHI HUANG
FAILED, BUT QIN
SHI HUANG GREW
FEARFUL OF
ASSASSINS.



THIS
SECRET
VAULT CONTAINS
THE MONEY,
SILK, AND
OVER 500,000
WEAPONS
AND ARMOR
GATHERED
FROM
JIANGHUAI,
HENAN, AND
QINGHE...

PRESENTLY...



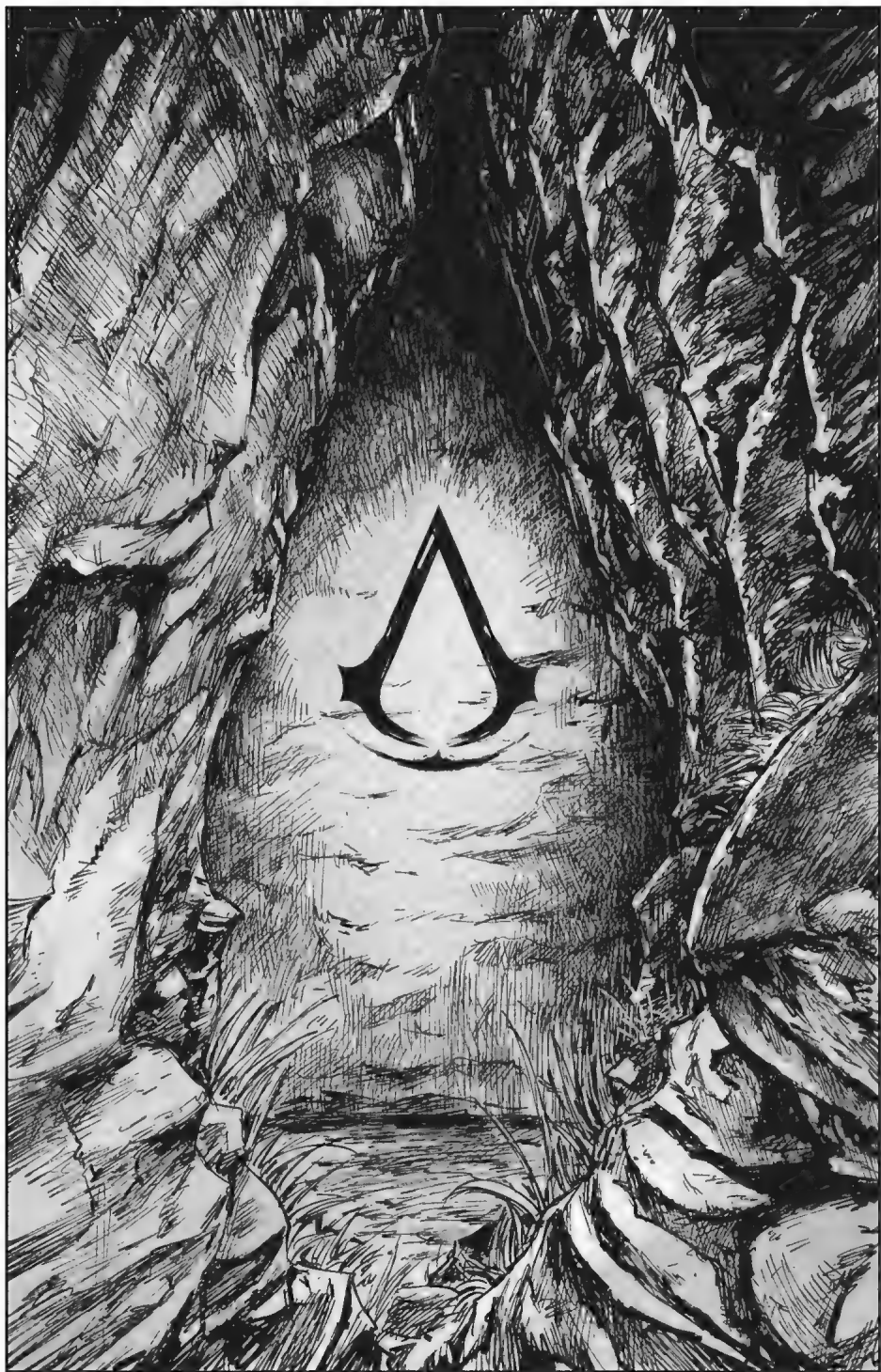
FROM THAT MOMENT
ON, THE ASSASSINS LIVED
IN THE SHADOWS.

THEY NO LONGER
INTERACTED WITH
EACH OTHER AND
ACTED INDIVIDUALLY.

LATER GENERATIONS
ERECTED SECRET
TREASURIES IN VARIOUS
REGIONS OF THE CENTRAL
PLAINS. THESE TREASURES
HAD WEAPONS, MONEY, AND
SILK WHICH WERE PASSED
DOWN FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION IN
PREPARATION FOR
TIMES OF TROUBLE.



RIGHTEOUSNESS.





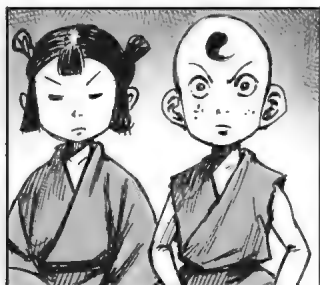


WHEREVER YOU GO...





I'LL
ASSASSINATE
AN LUSHAN.









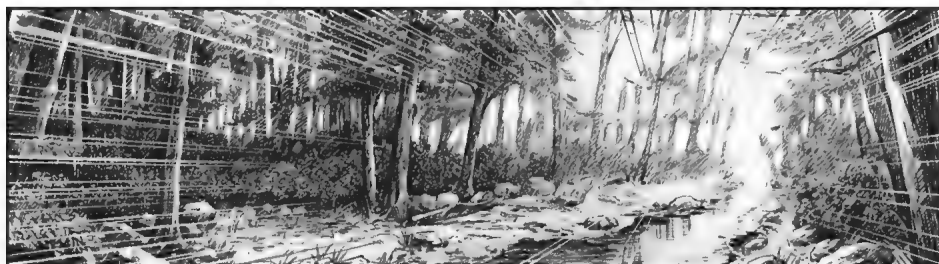


WHO CAN
BE LIKE THE
SCHOLAR, YANG
XIONG...

SPENDING
A LIFETIME
WRITING
BOOKS UNTIL
HIS DEATH?



THE HONORABLE
NAMES OF THE TWO
HEROES RING IN THE
CITY OF DA LIANG
FOR CENTURIES.




EVEN IN DEATH,
THEY REMAIN
RESPECTED FOR
THEIR CHIVALRY.

THE TRULY
WORTHY
HEROES
OF AN AGE.







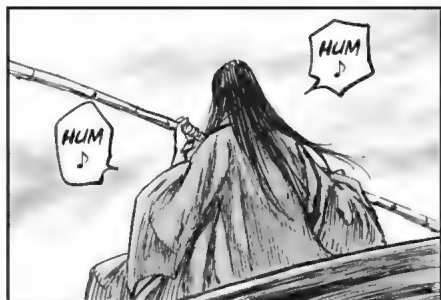


ALL STORMS
COME TO AN
END. KEEP YOUR
SAILS STEADY,
AND YOU'LL BE
GREETED BY THE
VAST SEA!

YOU
NEED TO
KNOW...

THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXIV





LEISURELY
DRINKING, LORD
XINLING REMOVES
HIS SWORD AND
STRETCHES HIS
LEGS.



AN INVITATION
SENT TO ZHU HAI
AND HOU YING
FOR A FEAST.

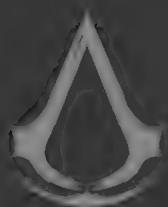


THE PASSIONATE WORDS
BETWEEN SWORDSMEN
MOVING THE HEAVENS TO
CONJURE A CLOUD BOW.

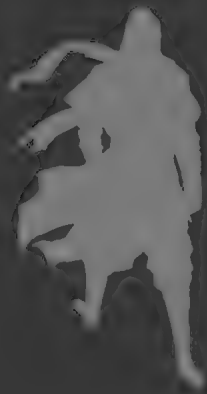


A PROMISE MADE
AFTER A FEW
CUPS OF WINE
IS HEFTIER THAN
THE FIVE GREAT
MOUNTAINS.





ASSASSIN'S
CREED
DYNASTY



LI BAI VISITED THE PRIME MINISTER IN KAIYUAN AND OFFERED A PLAQUE WITH THE WORDS, "LI BAI FISHING FOR AO AT SEA." THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED, "SIR, WHAT DO YOU USE AS YOUR FISHING LINE WHEN FISHING FOR THE GIANT AO AT SEA?" LI BAI ANSWERED, "THE WIND AND WAVES LIBERATE ME, WHILE THE UNIVERSE EMBOLDENS ME. A RAINBOW ACTS AS MY FISHING LINE AND THE RADIANT MOON AS MY HOOK." THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED AGAIN, "WHAT DO YOU USE AS BAIT?" LI BAI REPLIED, "I USE THE WORLD'S TREACHEROUS MEN AS BAIT."

--RECORDS OF MACKEREL STEW



AS THE
CRIES OF
MONKEYS
RING IN THE
EARS, A SMALL
BOAT PASSES
COUNTLESS
MOUNTAINS.



I WANT TO
RETURN TO
QINGHE COUNTY
AND LOOK FOR
MASTER PEI
MIN.

MASTER
PEI MIN? ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT
GENERAL PEI
MIN?

WHAT A
COINCIDENCE!
I LEARNED
MARTIAL ARTS
FROM HIM
BEFORE!

THANK
YOU FOR
SAVING
ME, SIR...

I'M LI E, A
TEMPORARY
RESIDENT
AT QINGHE.
HOW SHOULD
I ADDRESS
YOU, SIR?

HA! I DARE
NOT BE
ADDRESSED
LIKE THAT,
BUT... YOU
CAN CALL ME
THE DRUNKEN
IMMORTAL!

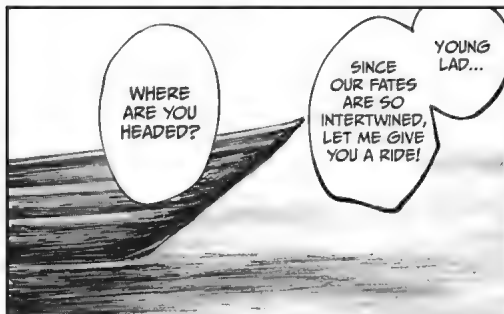
HERE, HAVE
SOME WINE I
JUST WARMED UP!
A CUP OF GOOD
WINE IS WORTH
THOUSANDS. DRINK
UP AND WARM
YOUR BODY. AFTER
THAT, TELL ME
YOUR STORY.

I HAVE
ALL THE
TIME
IN THE
WORLD TO
LISTEN TO
YOU.

...

LET'S
TOAST
FIRST!

IGNORE
THEM! THEY
WON'T
CATCH UP!





WHAT A
COINCIDENCE!
WE MEET
AGAIN!

YOUNG
LAD, IT'S
YOU!

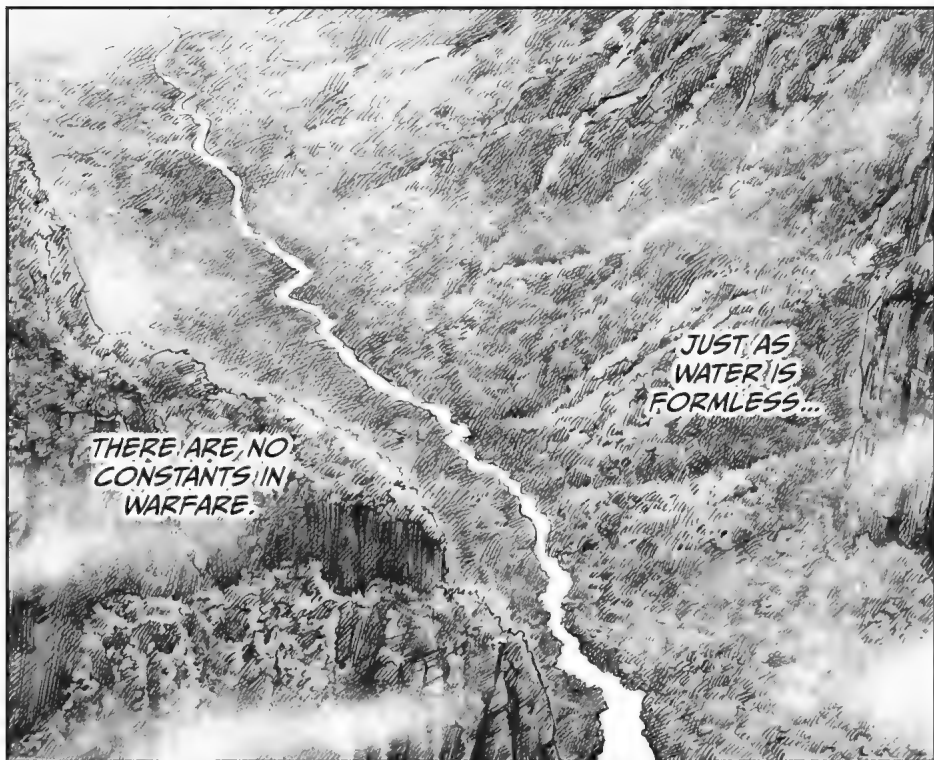


*AO: A MYSTICAL ANCIENT CHINESE CREATURE FROM "HUANANZI." IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A DRAGON WITH A CARP'S TAIL AND A TURTLE'S HEAD OR A GIANT TURTLE.



WILL
BE
GOD.





MILITARY
TACTICS ARE
LIKE WATER.

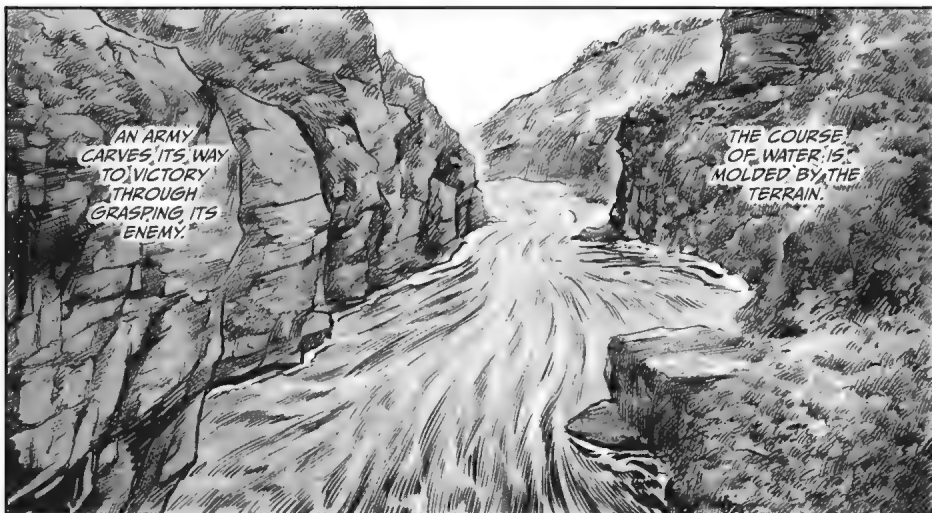


IN WAR, ONE
SHOULD AVOID
THE STRONG AND
STRIKE WHERE IT
IS WEAK.



WATER FLOWS
NATURALLY FROM
HIGH PLACES
AND HASTENS
DOWNWARD.

AN ARMY
CARVES ITS WAY
TO VICTORY
THROUGH
GRASPING ITS
ENEMY.

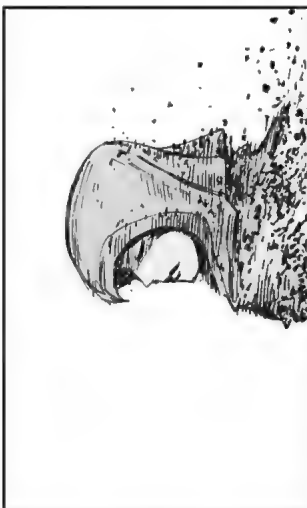


THE COURSE
OF WATER IS
MOLDED BY THE
TERRAIN.





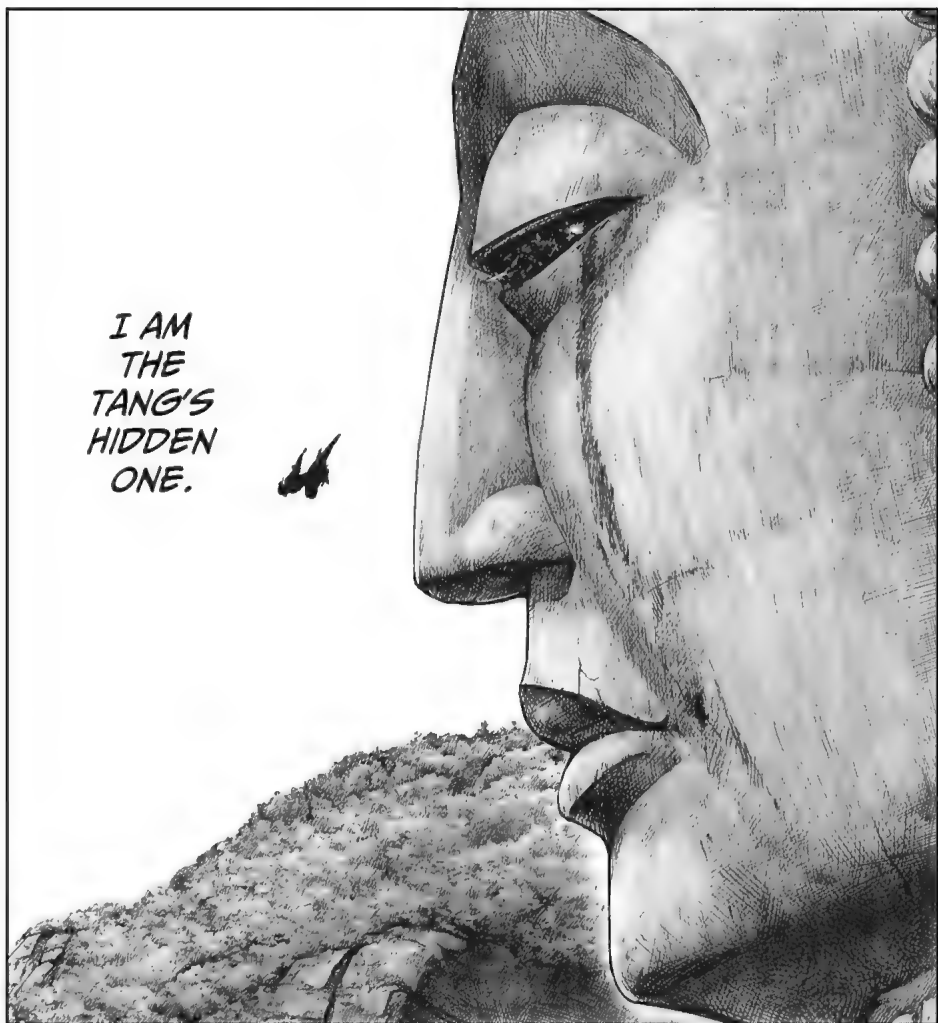
*GOODBYE,
HIDDEN ONE.*



I WILL
SEEK
JUSTICE
FOR THE
WORLD.



I AM
THE
TANG'S
HIDDEN
ONE.



AND
SERVE
THE
LIGHT.

I WILL
CONTINUE TO
TRAVERSE IN
THE DARKNESS...





*SUN TZU'S ART OF WAR: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES







I'M GOING
TO END
THINGS.



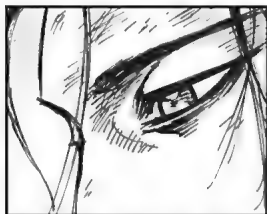
HOW DO
YOU SAY
"MY GOOD
STUDENT"
IN THE
LANGUAGE
OF THE
CENTRAL
PLAINS?

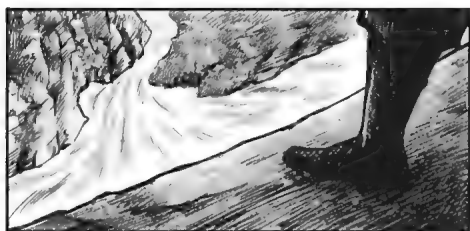


THAT'S
THE LI E
I KNOW.



"MY TRUE
LOVE."

























IS HE
ALREADY
DEAD...?



HOLD
ON...



ONCE
THIS IS
DONE...

WE CAN
FOLLOW
HIM TO A
LIFE OF
LUXURY
TOO.



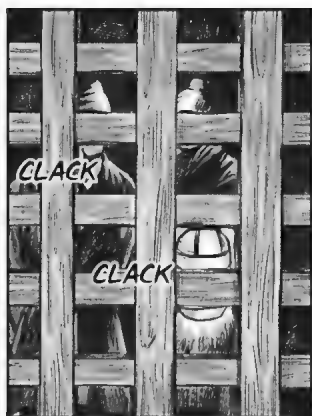
THROW
HIM OUT
TO FEED
THE
DOGS.



SO BE IT.
HE'S BEEN
LOCKED UP
WITHOUT
ANY CARE
FOR
AGES...

EVEN THE
FLOOR IS
STAINED
WITH HIS
BLOOD...
THERE'S
NO WAY
HE'S
ALIVE.









EVEN IF
YOU COULD
REDO THINGS
A MILLION
TIMES, HE
WOULD'VE
CHOSEN THIS
PATH.

EVEN
WITHOUT YOU,
YOUR FRIEND
WOULD'VE
ACTED ON HIS
BELIEFS...



DESTINY.

THIS IS
WHAT YOU
TAMGHAJS
CALL...



YOU
HAVE MORE
IMPORTANT
TASKS TO
CARRY OUT.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TIME TO
WASTE ON
USELESS SELF-
REPROACH.





AT THAT
TIME, I FAILED
TO PROTECT
YOU GUYS...



I'VE
FAILED YET
AGAIN.



NO,
THAT'S
NOT IT...



IF JIMING
HADN'T MET
ME...

IF I HADN'T
ASSASSINATED
THOSE THREE
TRAITOROUS
GENERALS AND
ASSISTED IN
OPENING TUMEN
PASS...



I SHOULDN'T
HAVE
GONE TO
TAIYUAN FOR
REINFORCE-
MENTS...

I SHOULD'VE
KNOWN THAT THE
IMPERIAL ARMY
HAD A SPY... I
SHOULDN'T HAVE
LEFT CHANGSHAN
SO QUICKLY...



THE HIDDEN ONES
CHAPTER XXXIII



JIMING?



BUT EVEN
AFTER THE
WHOLE CITY
BURNED TO
THE GROUND,
I STILL
COULDN'T
FIND HIM...

...A
FRIEND
OF MINE.

HE'S
WAITING
FOR ME.



I SAW
THE CIVILIANS
GUARDING THE
CITY GATES
GRADUALLY...
SLAUGHTERED BY
THE TRAITORS...
GOVERNOR YAN
GAOQING WAS
KILLED TOO...

MY CON-
SCIOUSNESS
WEAVED
THROUGH THE
MOUNTAINS OF
CORPSES

SEARCH-
ING FOR
JIMING...



YET, I
STILL
COULDN'T
FIND JIMING.

AGAIN
AND
AGAIN...

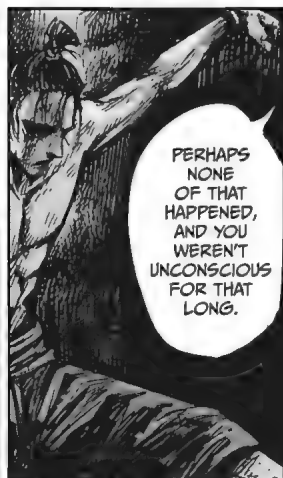
CHANGSHAN
WAS IN
FLAMES AGAIN.
PEOPLE WERE
SLAUGHTERED
AGAIN. ALL THE
COMRADES
I TRUSTED
WERE KILLED
BEFORE
ME...

AFTER THAT,
EVERYTHING
REPEATED
ITSELF ONCE
MORE.



NO,
ALIANNA...
DON'T
LIE TO
ME...

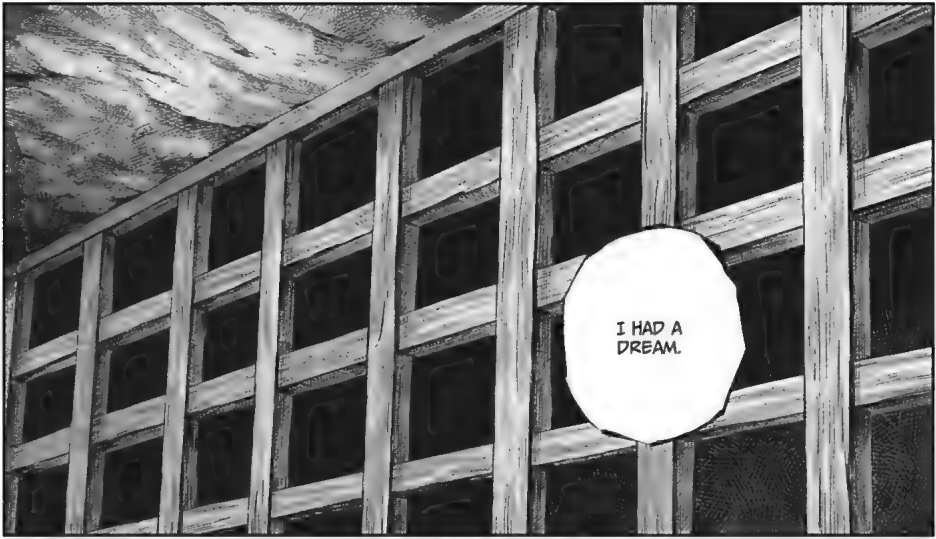
I KNOW
HE'S
DEAD...



PERHAPS
NONE
OF THAT
HAPPENED,
AND YOU
WEREN'T
UNCONSCIOUS
FOR THAT
LONG.



PERHAPS
YOUR FRIEND
SURVIVED THIS
DISASTER.



A dark silhouette of a warrior with a sword and a small animal, possibly a cat, in tall grass. The warrior is in a dynamic pose, and the animal is perched on a rock or log. The background is a dark, textured sky.

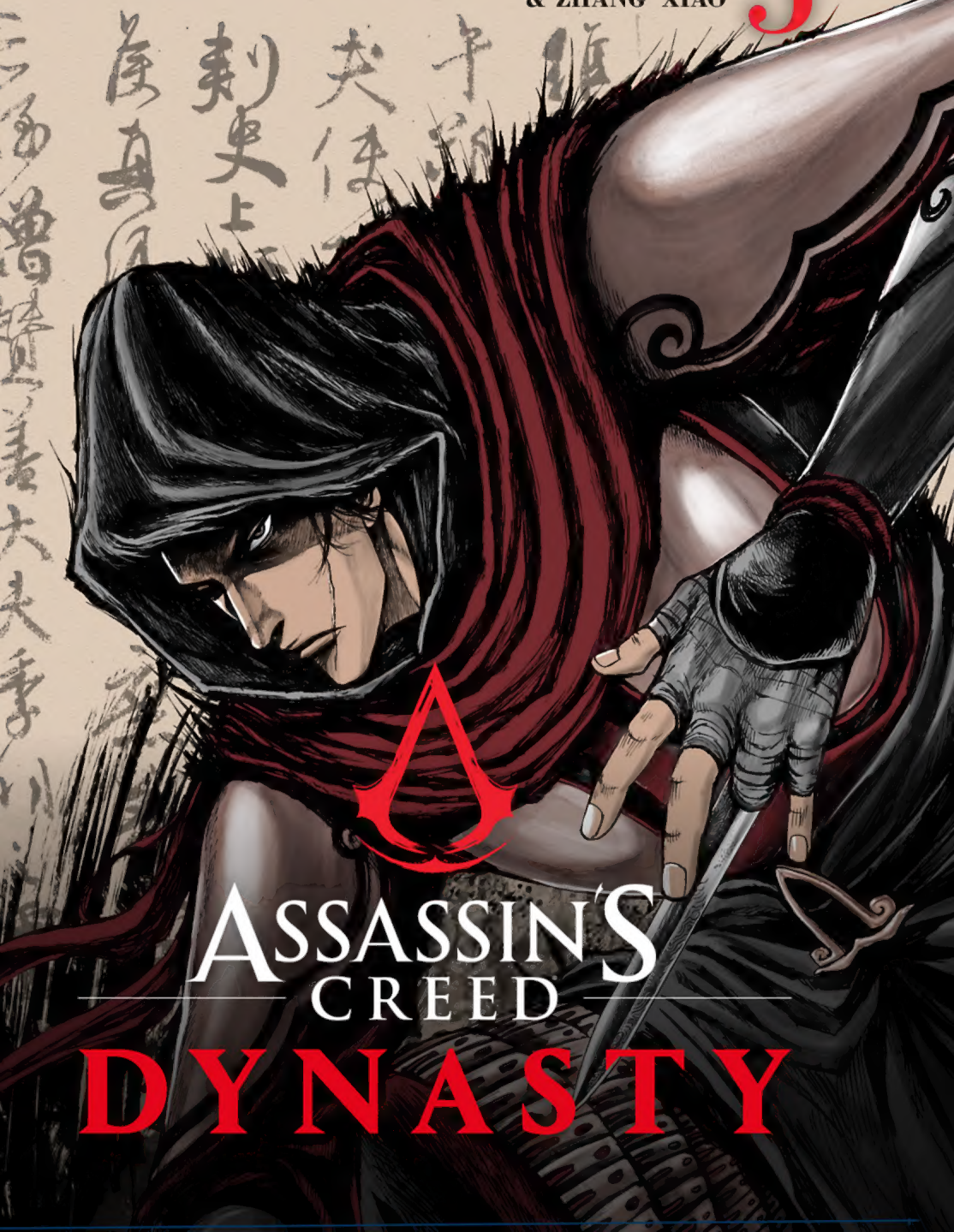
BOOK FIVE: **THE HIDDEN ONES**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter XXXIII	pg 5
Chapter XXXIV	pg 44
Chapter XXXV	pg 76
Chapter XXXVI	pg 117
Chapter XXXVII	pg 147
Chapter XXXVIII	pg 201

XU XIANZHE
& ZHANG XIAO

5



ASSASSIN'S
CREED

DYNASTY


Assassin's Creed® Dynasty, Volume 5

Story by Xu Xianzhe

Art by Zhang Xiao

Assistant Artists - Zhou Peican, Lin Lin, Yuan Yuan
Consulting Historian - Meng Xianshi
Produced by - New Comics
Special thanks - Mia Zhang and the Ubisoft Film and
Television team, Aymar Azaïzia, Fatiha Chellali
and Etienne Bouvier
Translator - Karen Lam
Proofreaders - Nicole Cheong
Editor - Lena Atanassova
Copyeditor - M. Cara Carper, Becca Grace
Marketing Associate - Kae Winters
Digital Marketing Assistant - Kitt Burgess
Cover Design & Graphic Artist - Soodam Lee
Editorial Associate - Janae Young
Retouching and Lettering - Vibraant Publishing Studio
Licensing Specialist - Arika Yanaka
Editor-in-Chief & Publisher - Stu Levy



TOKYOPOP and  are trademarks or registered trademarks of TOKYOPOP Inc.

TOKYOPOP Inc.
4136 Del Rey Ave., Suite 502
Marina del Rey, CA 90292-5604

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com



www.facebook.com/TOKYOPOP



www.twitter.com/TOKYOPOP



www.instagram.com/TOKYOPOP

© 2022 TOKYOPOP
All Rights Reserved

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This manga is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

© 2022 Ubisoft Entertainment.

All Rights Reserved. Assassin's Creed, Ubisoft and the Ubisoft logo are registered or unregistered trademarks of Ubisoft Entertainment in the U.S. and/or other countries.

PDF: 978-1-4278-7216-6
MOBI: 978-1-4278-7215-9
EPUB: 978-1-4278-7214-2

XU XIANZHE
& ZHANG XIAO

5

TOKYOPOP®



ASSASSIN'S
CREED
DYNASTY

